Daily Report

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Envoy Departs for Damascus, Beirut

LD1605092289 Kuwait KUNA in English 0816 GMT 16 May 89

[Excerpt] Kuwait, May 16 (KUNA)—Arab League's chief Lebanon envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi left here today for Damascus and Beirut to resume contacts and consultations with the concerned parties to the Lebanese crisis.

Ibrahimi and the rest of the Arab League delegation, entrusted by the Arab six-member Committee on Lebanon to get in touch with the Lebanese factions, held two rounds of consultations here with the committee's chairman Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad over the last two days.

In addition to Ibrahimi the delegation comprises Kuwait's Ambassador to Syria Ahmad al-Jasim and commander of an Arab observer force Brigadier 'Ali al-Moumen of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Klibi Welcomes Soviet-U.S. Position on Lebanon

LD1205163189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1329 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Tunis, May 12 (KUNA)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi today praised Soviet-U.S. stand over Lebanon.

Klibi, in a press statement here, said the joint stand expressed in Moscow by the Soviet and U.S. foreign secretaries strongly supports Arab efforts made to bring about a solution to the Lebanese crisis.

The final communique for Soviet-U.S. talks in Moscow, issued yesterday, backed Arab League efforts toward Lebanon and hailed in particular the good offices of the six-man Arab Committee on Lebanon.

This stand, Klibi added, will enable the committee to implement its plan aimed at accomplishment of national entente in the war-torn country.

The committee is chaired by Kuwait Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and is membered by Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Algeria and Sudan.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Statement Rejects Shamir's Election Plan

NC1505204189 Paris AFP in English 2031 GMT 15 May 89

[Excerpts] Tunis, May 15 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organization Monday rejected an Israeli election plan for residents of the occupied territories, the PLO news agency WAFA said in a statement released here.

The proposal put forth by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and approved by majority vote in a cabinet meeting Sunday "does not concern the Palestinian people because it does not recognize its existence and does not deal with its cause and legitimate national rights," the statement said. [passage omitted]

The election plan also ignores all international resolutions, "including United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which stipulate non-seizure of others' lands by force and Israeli forces' withdrawal from Palestinian and Arab lands occupied since 1967," the statement by the PLO executive committee said.

The executive committee also blasted the Israeli Government's plan for attempting to conduct farcical elections, as "a means of deceiving international public opinion and solidifying the occupation."

Termed 'New Zionist Deception'

JN1505203089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1955 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Tunis, 15 May (INA)—The PLO has reiterated its rejection of the Zionist entity's plan to hold elections in the occupied Arab territories. It termed it a plan aimed at deceiving the world opinion and entrenching occupation of the Arab territories.

A responsible source at the PLO Executive Committee, which continued its meetings here today, stated that this plan does not concern the Palestinian people because it does not recognize these people's national existence, does not at all address the issues and their legitimate national rights, and ignores all UN resolutions, which reject the seizure of others' lands by force and which call for the Israeli forces' withdrawal from the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied in 1967.

The PLO stressed that this new Zionist deception will not delude world opinion and influential political forces which realize that a just and true peace requires realistic solutions based on recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and national independence.

It added that the appropriate framework to achieve this is by holding an international conference for peace in the Middle East and reactivating the preparatory efforts to convene it. It added that any ideas or interim plans should be part of an integrated and comprehensive plan to establish a just peace in the Middle East.

Abu Sharif on Israeli Plan

LD1505104889 Kuwait KUNA in English 0903 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Kuwait, May 15 (KUNA)—A high-ranking Palestinian official affirmed that the Palestinians will absolutely not accept holding any elections in the occupied territories that do not lead to a comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the future of the occupied land.

This is the first official response to the new Israeli plan of holding local elections in the occupied territories to be made by political adviser of PLO chairman, Bassam Abu Sharif, who was interviewed in Tunis by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), monitored here today.

Abu Sharif added that the PLO is keen on holding elections but there should be guarantees that make such elections end the Israeli occupation and achieve the Palestinians' self-determination right.

Commenting on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's election plan, the Palestinian official said such a misleading step is aimed at buying time, and called for free election guarantees, which the occupation cannot provide.

He pointed out that such elections should be linked to a final solution that comes through a transitional stage under the supervision of the United Nations to enable the Palestinian people build their independent state and practice their self-determination right, in the final stage.

Asked what would the PLO's stance be if Israel refused the PLO's conditions on holding elections in the occupied territories, Abu Sharif said that it is now the responsibility of those who call for comprehensive peace such as the United States, U.N. Security Council permanent members and the United Nations as a whole to provide such guarantees.

Asked by the BBC if Shamir's plan is not a good base for negotiations, he said the PLO wants comprehensive peace and not temporary tranquility, stressing that Israel and PLO should sit in the international conference and negotiate as long as the final goal is the self-determination right of the Palestinians and the independent Palestinian state.

He added that everything could be negotiated but Shamir and Israeli war minister Yitzhaq Rabin that the Palestinian people are continuing their uprising until the occupation comes to an end and are adhering to the peace initiative of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat which he had announced in Geneva. [sentence as received]

'Arafat's initiative stipulates: Israel's right to exist, acceptance of U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 and renunciation of terrorism.

Israeli Paper Cites Abu Sharif

TA1505130789 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 15 May pp 1, 17

[Report "from Britain" by Dafna Vardi]

[Text] Bassam Abu Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, said yesterday that "the PLO is trying to create the best conditions for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including those in East Jerusalem, to elect their representatives to the Palestinian parliament."

In a telephone conversation from Tunis with our correspondent, Abu Sharif explained that "those basic conditions are free elections, and the protection and safety of the elected representatives." He added that "these conditions will not come about without international presence and supervision."

He went on to say that the elections "must be one step in a process leading to the implementation of the Palestinians' right to self-determination or, in other words, a solution based on two states. This final status could be attained during a transitional period which would enable the Palestinians to prepare for their political independence under international supervision."

In reply to a question, Abu Sharif said that the PLO would agree to supervision by "forces able to guarantee the freedom of Palestinians to elect whomever they want and protect them once elected, so that they are not faced with the same situation as those elected in 1976. These forces would be the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, which have expressed their wish to promote the peace process." Palestinians could not vote freely, however, if there are Israeli troops in the territories, and at a time when Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir threatens to call off the elections if those elected are PLO members, and with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's vow to arrest anybody announcing his links with the PLO.

"At a time when the Americans are struggling to defend democracy in Panama," Abu Sharif said, "the Palestinians would like to discern the same enthusiasm to guarantee democracy for the Palestinians, according to the same standards." It is important for the Palestinians to ensure that the elections are merely one step in a process leading to the implementation of their right to self-determination and, "as Bush said during Shamir's visit in the United States, a step conducive to an Israeli withdrawal from the territories," Abu Sharif added.

Ever since Shamir's visit to the United States, PLO leaders have gone to great lengths not to reject the plan or appear to oppose it categorically. They have been reiterating the conditions under which they would be ready to accept it, but they have not rejected its very essence. This was also the case yesterday with Abu Sharif. Shortly after the announcement of the cabinet decision, he chose his words carefully and tried to concentrate on the following demands, including the Arabs of East Jerusalem, international supervision, and the assurance that this would be part of a process leading to a final solution. Abu Sharif pointed out that this was merely an initial reaction since he had not yet had the time to study the Israeli Cabinet decision thoroughly.

Group Urges Further 'Struggle'

JN1505204589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] The Palestine Popular Struggle Front has expressed its rejection of Shamir's plan of holding elections in the West Bank and Gaza under the shadow of

occupation. In a statement given by a spokesman, the front described Shamir's plan as conspiracy to solve the Palestine question through schemes of subordination. The front called on Palestinian masses inside and outside the occupied territories to confront this new conspiracy by escalating and promoting struggle and the popular intifadah [uprising] against the occupation.

PLO Executive Committee Meets Under 'Arafat

JN1505200789 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1827 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Under brother leader President Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the PLO Executive Committee began a series of meetings in Tunis last night. The committee is discussing developments in our beloved Palestinian land in light of the escalating crimes and brutal massacres perpetrated by the Israeli occupation forces against our defenseless Palestinian people. It is also discussing how to support the intifadah [uprising] by all available means and how to confront Shamir's plan and the conspiracy of elections. The committee is also discussing the PLO's position on the issues that will be discussed by the extraordinary Arab summit, scheduled for Casablanca, Morocco, on 23 May.

Brother leader President Abu 'Ammar will inform brother members of the Executive Committee of the outcome of his visit to France and of the political gains and support for the idea of the international peace conference that his talks with French President Francois Mitterrand have achieved.

Further on Meeting

JN1505152589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1435 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Tunis, 15 May (INA)—The PLO Executive Committee continued the meeting, which began yesterday under Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, to discuss developments in the Palestine question in Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas.

An informed Palestinian source has stated that the discussions dealt with issues relating to the intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories in light of the escalating Zionist terrorism and the Palestinian diplomatic moves in the international arena.

The PLO Executive Committee discussed the preparations for the participation by the State of Palestine in the Arab emergency summit, scheduled to be held in Casablanca on 23 May.

'Arafat Meets Zimbabwe's President Mugabe 12 May

JN1305184489 Sanaa Voice of Palestine 1600 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] In Harare, brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine, PLO Executive Committee chairman, and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, met yesterday with Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, current chairman of the Nonaligned Movement. Their talks focused on the latest Middle East developments.

At a news conference in Harare, Brother Abu 'Ammar said he acquainted President Mugabe with his meeting with French President Mitterrand in Paris last week. They also discussed Palestine's application for membership of the World Health Organization in Geneva. Brother Abu 'Ammar said the opposition to the Palestinian application is attributable to U.S. blackmail, because of the U.S. threat to withhold funding from the UN agency if the PLO is accorded the status of full member.

PLO Factions Reportedly Agree To Be Reunited

JN1505170289 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 14 May 89 pp 3, 20

[Text] Damascus, AL-ITTIHAD—The two wings of the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF], under the patronage of the Palestinian factions, have reached an agreement to reunify the front.

The agreement was reached as a result of intensive meetings between the two wings in Tunis. The first wing was represented by Abu 'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas], Abu Ahmad Halabi, and Abu 'Ala'. The Tal'at Ya'qub wing was represented by Abu Nidal al-Ashqar, Abu Ma'mun, and Abu Saji.

The agreement, which AL-ITTIHAD obtained a copy of, stipulates that a unification conference for the front, to be attended by 110 members, should be held during the 2d half of this year. The agreement also stipulates that a 29-member central committee for the front be elected from both sides, in addition to a political bureau, which will include one-third of the central committee members.

The agreement also stipulated the formation of a six-member preparatory committee, including three from each side, with the task of formulating the draft documents for the unification conference, holding regular meetings every 2 weeks, and laying out a plan for unifying political and information policy.

It was agreed that the preparatory committee be chaired by Abu 'Abbas and that its secretary be Abu Nidal al-Ashqar.

Palestinian sources have stated that the recent information policy, which rejected the idea of reunifying the two wings, is no longer in force. They also stated that the contacts, which were held in Tunis between both wings' leaders in Damascus and Tunis, have led to a full agreement on this plan.

The preparatory committee is expected to begin its work in the middle of this month. As a result of these meetings, it is expected that the full unity of the front and the formation of its new leadership will be declared.

Algeria

69 People Detained for 10 May Disturbances

LD1505225189 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] The general prosecutor of the Guelma justice council this afternoon issued a comunique and handed it to the APS office in Guelma. This is the text of the communique:

Following the disturbances that breached public order in Souk Ahras on 10 May 1989, the general prosecutor's office has demanded that a judicial inquiry be opened against those 90 persons brought to its attention by the security services for illegal looting, robbery, arson, and destruction of public property. The acts mentioned are punishable under articles of the criminal law.

In this respect, a detention order has been issued by the investigation judge against 69 persons; 21 others have been released on bail.

The communique further says that the judicial inquiry is continuing in order to pinpoint the responsibility of each of these people. The communique says in conclusion: When the investigation is completed, the persons brought to justice will be tried by the competent courts.

Consular, Legal Agreements Signed With Turkey

TA1505160689 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1455 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Ankara (A.A)—Turkey and Algeria signed two agreements today in Algeria. One of the agreements is on consular matters, the other on legal issues. The agreements were signed by Turkish Justice Minister Oltan Sungurlu, currently on an official visit to Algeria, and his Algerian counterpart Ali Benfliss.

The legal agreement means that legal, economic and trade relations between the two countries will now be handled within a legal framework.

Justice Minister Sungurlu met Algerian Premier Kasdi Merbah among his other contacts during his visit. Sungurlu will conclude his contacts and leave Algeria for Morocco today.

Human Rights League Decries Censorship

LD1205100389 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 May 89

[Excerpt] The Algerian Human Rights League today released a communique denouncing all the practices of the enemies of freedom and democracy who are still sticking to the "wooden language" [literal French translation of "langue de bois" meaning uncritical and withholding truth] and to the one opinion and who are exercising a savage censorship. After attempts were made by a number of publications, such as the MAGHREBAN PATH, to normalize the situation and after the severe blow dealt to the television when it tried to open a democratic dialogue, today it was the turn of the weekly ALGERIE-ACTUALITIES to be subjected to censorship. Such censorship was exercised in the latest issue of ALGERIE-ACTUALITIES when its editorial entitled "The Right To Criticize," was withdrawn and replaced by a page of announcements. The front page which referred to this editorial was also modified, and this constitutes a violation of the right to information and a premeditated alteration of the weekly's contents. Hence, the Algerian Human Rights League strongly denounces these dangerous practices against the spirit of the Constitution and subsequently the serious violation of basic liberties, without which it is not possible to ensure the success of the democratic experiment in Algeria.

Is it necessary to recall, the communique says, that the Constitution guarantees the freedom of opinion and expression and that only the judiciary can and is entitled to punish or make a decision on the matter? This was ignored by the administrators of ALGERIE-ACTUALITIES when they went against the current of the popular will which expressed itself very clearly, both during the October incidents and the 23 February referendum.

The violation of democratic principles was also preceded by repeated threats against the author of the editorial in the form of anonymous leaflets and letters which disregard the methods of dialogue and reflect a spirit which we thought had disappeared forever—namely the spirit of threats, repression, and haggling at a time when all the civilian authorities are entitled to exercise their legitimate and clear right to reply.

It is not the role of the Algerian Human Rights League to assess the content of the editorial which dealt with censorship. Neither should it pass judgment and impose obligations. Nor can it constitute a reference, because the league includes militants from all political persuasions whose goal is the defense and preservation of human rights. However, the league affirms that it remains loyal to its mission to entrench the October gains expressed in the new Constitution. Therefore, the league is demanding the publication of the banned text—it should be put in the hands of the public, who should be given the opportunity to assess it and whose right to information would then be affirmed. The league also commits itself to work and cooperate with the Movement of Journalists and sections of the civilian society in order to make the publication of this text possible.

The Algerian Human Rights League concluded its communique by reminding the Constitutional Council of the unacceptable violation of the basic law, and it called on the first judge in the country, the supreme guardian of the Constitution to make the necessary measures to preserve the basic liberties. [passage omitted]

Ministry Defends Censorship

LD1205174189 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 May 89

[Excerpts] In a reply addressed to APS, the Ministry of Culture and Information examined the Algerian League of Human Rights statement, which was released yesterday, in which the league protested the ban on the weekly ALGERIE-ACTUALITIES. Here is the text of the explanation:

The Algerian League of Human Rights on Thursday, 11 May 1989, released a statement in which it denounced what it described as a ban on and manipulation of the latest issue of the weekly ALGERIA-ACTUALITIES. It also believes that there is a grave threat to the spirit of the Constitution and an open attack on fundamental freedoms. The need for a correct and realistic assessment of the issue should have guided the Algerian League of Human Rights to approach the newspaper's supervisory body to learn about the content of the issue in order to form an opinion based on firm and verifiable evidence before releasing a uniquely aggressive statement.

What is the truth behind a judgment which seems hasty, to say the least? Is it not essential to state that, in accordance with Clause 5 of the still effective information law, guidance for publications of public information nature, news agency, radio, television, and pictorial press [al-sahafah al-musawwarah] is the absolute responsibility of the country's political leadership expressed through the Ministry of Culture and Information? This applies to the national weekly ALGERIE-ACTUALITIES. In accordance with this law, responsibility for the editorial orientation of the weekly ALGERIE-ACTUALITIES is subject to the direct authority of supervision. Consequently, the weekly cannot be [word indistinct] or used to express personal views. That would be like private ownership of state apparatus which would be repudiated by the most basic principles of morality and the moral principles of the profession.

The supervising authority, supported by that right and out of its concern for the freedom of expression, permitted Kamal Belkacem to publish a complete article as his free opinion in the same issue of ALGERIE-ACTUALITIES or in any newspaper of his choice. Therefore, we have the right to ask, the ministry says after this explanation, whether the Algerian League of Human Rights bothered to find out whether censorship scissors were used or whether a right recognized by all media laws was applied by those who control the authorities responsible for deciding the newspaper's policy line.

As for the constitutional laws, especially free opinion and the freedom of expression, they have been thoroughly respected and Kamal Belkacem has been given the opportunity to express his ideas and convictions. [passage omitted]

As for the Algerian League of Human Rights's open insistence on the publication of this article, it is possible to reaffirm that the position of the Ministry of Culture and Information which was declared in writing before the publication of the article has not changed, and thus does not suffer from ambiguity. This explains the Ministry of Culture and Information's calmness in facing the uproar about this issue, especially on television, which was able to exercise its right to disseminate information in its own way and without any pressures.

As for the rashness demonstrated by the Algerian League of Human Rights, which was only familiar with a part of the truth, we—the ministry says—dare to attribute that to difficult and strenuous adaptation to the exercise of democracy, which we are all facing. This incident must prompt us all, especially a group like the Algerian League of Human Rights, to further insist on making the search for truth as a fundamental condition in defending freedom, democracy, and the rule of law.

FLN Congress To Be Held End October

LD1505173989 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] The National Liberation Front [FLN] emergency congress will meet 28-30 October. This decision was made this afternoon by the Central Committee following the proposal of the national committee preparing for the congress.

Egypt

Richard Armitage Arrives for Talks 16 May

NC1605071689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0624 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—Richard Armitage, U.S. assistant secretary of defense, arrived in Cairo this morning on a visit to Egypt during which he will meet with President Husni Mubarak and hold talks with General Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib, minister of defense and war production. Armitage is to attend a meeting of the joint Egyptian-U.S. military committee at midday.

Armitage was met at the airport by Staff Major General Faruq 'Abd al-'Azim, commander of the central military zone, a number of senior Armed Forces officers, and staff from the U.S. Embassy in Cairo.

[At 0626 GMT, on 16 May, Cairo MENA in Arabic adds, "General Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib, minister of defense and war production and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has met with Richard Armitage, U.S. assistant secretary of defense who is currently visiting Cairo, and his delegation.

"The promotion of military cooperation between Egypt and the United States was discussed in the meeting which was also attended by Lieutenant General Safi al-Din Abu Shinaf, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, and Frank Wisner, U.S. ambassador to Cairo."

At 0630 GMT on 16 May, MENA adds, "This morning President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Richard Armitage, U.S. assistant secretary of defense who arrived in Cairo earlier today.

"The meeting was attended by Gen Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib, minister of defense and war production, and Frank Wisner, U.S. ambassador to Cairo."]

Joint Committee Talks Begin

NC1605100589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0933 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—The meetings of the Egyptian-U.S. military coordination committee began at midday under the cochairmanship of Lieutenant General Safi al-Din Abu Shinaf, chief of staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces, and Richard Armitage, U.S. assistant secretary of defense.

During the meetings, which will last until 18 May, Egyptian and U.S. officials will review the U.S. military aid program to Egypt as well as means of bolstering military cooperation between the two countries.

'Abd al-Majid Confers With U.S. Envoy Ross

NC1505115989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 May (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here today with Dennis Ross, envoy of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. After the 90-minute meeting, Ross said that the talks dealt with the discussions that the U.S. secretary of state has had with his Soviet counterpart in Moscow. He added that the talks also touched on Middle East peace efforts and the possibility of working out a peaceful settlement to guarantee regional stability. Egyptian-U.S. relations were discussed during the meeting, Ross added.

Answering a question about the U.S. Administration's position on Israeli Prime Minister Shamir's proposals, Dennis Ross pointed out that these proposals contain certain positive factors which are being discussed with Egypt, Jordan, and Israel.

The U.S. envoy refused to comment on the issue of elections in the occupied territories under international supervision.

Meanwhile, Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for political affairs, held a meeting with the U.S. envoy this morning. U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Frank Wisner attended both meetings.

The U.S. envoy is expected to visit Jordan for talks with Jordanian officials. It should be recalled that Ross had visited Israel before Egypt.

Mubarak Cited on 'Good' Relations With Syria

NC1505140789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1344 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak stressed, in a statement to reporters today, that relations between the Egyptian and Syrian people and leaders are good. He said there are no differences between us and Syria, including Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Answering a question concerning what SANA reported yesterday about the good relations that link the peoples and leaders of the two countries, President Mubarak said: "We thank President Hafiz al-Asad for this good statement. In my response to this question I cannot add anything else."

President Mubarak responded to a question on Shamir's peace plan that the Israeli Cabinet approved yesterday by saying: I have not been briefed on the details of this plan, so cannot yet give my views on it.

Answering another question following his excellency's meeting with the professors and other teaching staff at Cairo University's Economics and Political Science College, the president said: The meeting dealt with all the current economic and political issues. There was a general discussion of these issues.

To a question on the visit by Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah to Egypt, which is to begin tomorrow, President Mubarak explained that the talks between him and His Highness Shaykh 'Isa will deal with all current Arab issues, including the Palestinian question and the relations between Egypt and Bahrain.

Mubarak on Economic Issues, Decision-Making

NC1505183389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 15 May 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 15 May (MENA)—Following President Husni Mubarak's 5-hour meeting today with the professors and other teaching staff at Cairo University's Economics and Political Science College, Dr Mamduh al-Biltaji, head of the Public Information Authority, said that the meeting dealt with Egyptian-Sudanese relations on the occasion of the seminar on this issue organized by the college.

President Mubarak explained that relations between Egypt and Sudan are of a historic and unique nature. He said that they are at the top of the two countries' national and pan-Arab agendas and that it is necessary to let this unique relationship take shape and to entrench it through economic cooperation, particularly in agricultural production and animal and water resources. [passage omitted]

Dr al-Biltaji said an important dialogue took place at the meeting between President Mubarak and the college staff on the principal economic problems, and that a number of different views, ideas, and proposals were made on the issues of inflation, unemployment, public consumption and expenditures, population, the nationalization of the public sector, and the encouragement of productive investments.

The president stressed that economic reform is a complex process that requires an overall, comprehensive approach. It needs the right psychological environment for reform, the mobilization of the masses behind the economic and social development goals, the approval of a competing group of policies and integrated economic measures, the consideration of the time factor involved, and the gradual implementation of these measures without breaching the social dimension; that is, without burdening the low-income groups. The president also underlined his deep belief in the need for constant development and change for the better, for the sake of the people's interests. [passage omitted]

Regarding the mechanism for issuing a presidential decision, the president stressed that decisions are issued on the basis of detailed studies in which all the constitutional institutions take part. He said that he does not believe in stacking the presidential institution with advisers who could turn into centers of power, a matter that must not occur again. However, he added, consultations, and large-scale consultations at that, with various parties and individuals are the basis for making rules and decisions. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak also stressed that he is not thinking of dissolving the People's Assembly now and that he does not believe in the policy of getting the citizens occupied with marginal issues that would divert the public action process from its main course, which is represented in the need to focus the national effort on speeding up the economic development in order to break out of the economic crisis and raise Egypt's standard of living.

Concluding his statement, Dr al-Biltaji said that around 60 teachers of economics and political science attended the meeting.

Court Hands Down Verdicts Against Libyan Spies

NC1505142589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 May (MENA)—The State Higher Security Court today handed down its verdicts in the case of those spying for Libya, which involves seven defendants: three Libyan intelligence personnel who are at large and four Egyptians. The court sentenced the three Libyans, Muhammad Fadl, Yusuf Abu Halalah, and Muhammad Sa'd, to life imprisonment at hard labor and fines of 5,000 pounds.

The court sentenced defendant Salah Mahmud al-Shafi to 10 years, with a fine of 1,000 pounds; Husayn 'Uthman to 2 years, with a fine of 1,000 pounds; and both Ahmad Muhammad 'Isa and Muhammad Hamid al-Sha'ir to suspended sentences of 1 year with fines of 1,000 pounds each.

The Higher State Security Prosecution Office earlier referred the defendants to the court for trial on charges of spying for a foreign country, Libya, of obtaining bribes, and of commiting a number of forgeries.

Foreign Minister Confers With Soviet Ambassador

NC1605084789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Soviet Ambassador to Egypt Gennadiy Zhuravlev, who briefed the foreign minister on the Soviet Union's view regarding Israeli Prime Minister Shamir's proposals for elections in the occupied Arab territories.

During the meeting, the Soviet ambassador acquainted Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid with the outcome of the U.S.-Soviet talks recently held in Moscow between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze. 'Abd al-Majid and the Soviet ambassador discussed regional issues, foremost of which is the Middle East problem.

Investment Agreement Signed With Kuwait

LD1505212489 Kuwait KUNA in English 1935 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Cairo, May 15 (KUNA)—Kuwait and Egypt have signed here Monday evening an agreement on encouragement and protection of investments.

The agreement was signed on behalf of Kuwait's government by Finance Minister Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi, who is currently on a three-day official visit to Cairo.

Egyptian Economic Minister Dr. Yusri 'Ali Mustafa signed for the Egyptian Government. The signing ceremony was attended by Egyptian Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Administrative Development, Dr. Atif 'Ubayd.

Also present were deputy board chairman of Egypt's investment public authority Dr. Muhyi al-Din al-Gharib, Kuwait Ambassador to Cairo 'Abd al-Razak al-Qandari and members of Al-Kharafi's delegation.

Al-Kharafi and his Egyptian counterpart exchanged cordial speeches on signing the agreement, stressing the significance of the move in further boosting bilateral cooperation between the two brotherly states in compliance with the directives of H.H. the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah and Egyptian president Husni Mubarak.

Mubarak Issues Decree on Luxor Administration

NC1505164789 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has issued a presidential decree regarding the administrative system of the city of Luxor. The decree states that Luxor is a city of special importance in view of its long-standing historical and cultural character, an international tourist assembly point, and a cultural showcase for Egypt.

The decree states that Luxor will have a chairman who will be appointed by a decree of the president of the republic. He will be regarded as a representative of the executive authority and will be charged with supervising the state's general policy and the production and service facilities within the limits of the city of Luxor. He will be responsible to the prime minister in undertaking these responsibilities.

The presidential decree also states that the chairman of the city of Luxor will have the authority of a minister responsible for financial and administrative affairs with regard to the city's facilities.

The decree also stipulated that Luxor will have a higher council headed by the chairman. The council will undertake to draw up plans for economic and social development, urban planning, and development of tourism in the city.

Libya

Thai Minister Cited on Workers at Al-Rabitah

LD1505143189 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] The Thai foreign minister today revealed that the U.S. Administration last week sent a letter to his government asking for the withdrawal of Thai workers working at the Al-Rabitah pharmaceuticals plant in the Jamahiriyah. A government source in Bangkok declared that the workers are free to remain in Libya and that it is up to them to leave Libya or not. At a cabinet meeting held at the end of last week in the north of Thailand the Thai prime minister indicated that the decision to leave the plant is in the hands of the workers themselves.

North Yemen Chief of Staff Arrives for Visit

LD1405213289 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1805 GMT 14 May 89

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 14 May (JANA)—Colonel 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of General Staff of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] Armed Forces and member of the Standing Committee of the YAR General People's Congress, and his accompanying delegation, arrived in Tripoli this evening for a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. He was welcomed at the airport by Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir and a number of officers of the Arab Libyan Armed Forces, and the ambassador and staff of the YAR Embassy in the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

Received by Al-Qadhafi

LD1505141989 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received Colonel 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashri, chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces in North Yemen and member of the Standing Committee of the General People's Congress, who handed him a message from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic.

Jabir Receives Romanian Defense Minister

LD1205173489 Tripoli JANA in English 1418 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Tripoli al-Maa [May] 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Col. Abu Bakir Yunis Jabir received yesterday afternoon the Romanian defence minister and his accompanying delegation. Present at this meeting was the ambassador of the Republic of Romania accredited to Great al-Jamahiriyah.

Mauritania

OAU Chairman Meets President on Senegal Issue

LD1305031989 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 12 May 89

[Excerpt] General Moussa Traore, secretary general of the Malian Democratic Union, President of the Republic of Mali, and current OAU chairman, left Nouakchott this afternoon after a brief visit to our country. He held talks with Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state. The discussions dealt with bilateral relations and regional issues.

In a statement to the press, General Traore thanked Col Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to him and the accompanying delegation during their stay in Nouakchott. He said that the Mauritanian-Malian relations were good and diversified [words indistinct]. Part of the discussions was devoted to the recent developments and the situation between Mauritania and Senegal. In this respect, the Malian president declared that he agreed with Col

Maaouiya that such incidents should never happen again and that he was heading for Dakar to brief the Senegalese president about the results of his visit to Nouakchott. [passage omitted]

Togolese Foreign Affairs Minister Meets Taya

AB1405130089 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, the Military Committee for National Salvation chairman and head of state, granted an audience yesterday morning to Mr Yaovi Adodo, [words indistinct] the Togolese minister of foreign affairs and cooperation [words indistinct]. Present at the audience were Colonel Mohamed Ould Sidya, the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and Mohamed Ould Nany, the minister of finance and economy. The Togolese minister of foreign affairs and cooperation presented 75 million CFA francs as his country's contribution to the resettlement of our nationals who lived in Senegal. In addition, the head of state yesterday morning received the ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco accredited to our country.

Ministers Earmark Money for Repatriated Citizens

AB1105172689 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 1230 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] In Mauritania, the Council of Ministers met yesterday and decided to earmark 5 percent of the state's working expenses, that is, about 400 million CFA francs, to help carry out the redeployment of Mauritanians expelled from Senegal. In Senegal yesterday, the setting up of a solidarity fund was urged to assist those Senegalese repatriated from Mauritania.

Sudan

Report of Rebels Opening Ndjamena Office Denied

NC1505163189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Khartoum, 15 May (MENA)—Ali Huan, Chadian charge d'affaires at the Chadian Embassy in Khartoum [name and title as received], has denied reports claiming the Chadian authorities have permitted the rebel movement in southern Sudan to open offices in Ndjamena.

The Chadian charge d'affaires said that the enemies of Sudan and Chad are spreading these rumors in order to cause a rift between the two fraternal countries that are linked by mutual ties and interests.

He added that the Chadian Government will not allow Garang's movement or any other forces opposed to Sudan to operate on its territory. He asserted that his government is earnestly seeking to develop and strengthen its relations with Sudan for the good of the people in both countries.

Culture Minister on Defense Pact With Egypt

NC1505171389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Khartoum, 15 May (MENA)—Dr Husayn Abu Salih, Sudanese minister of culture and information and official spokesman of the Sudanese Government, has stressed that the joint defense agreement between Egypt and Sudan does not include anything that harms Sudanese national sovereignty. In a statement today, Abu Salih said that this agreement "must remain in force" because it is important to the two countries.

Dr Abu Salih urged the rebel movement in southern Sudan, which is led by John Garang, to stop making what he described as impossible demands and asserted that the joint defense agreement with Egypt cannot be abrogated except by a law. He added that it is difficult for the Sudanese Constituent Assembly to abrogate the defense agreement with Egypt.

Commenting on the peace efforts in southern Sudan, the Sudanese culture and information minister remarked that the real beginning of the implementation of the Sudanese peace initiative signed between the Democratic Unionist Party and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement on 16 November 1988 would be to hold a meeting between the ministerial peace committee and John Garang's movement, to hold another meeting of the joint technical and military committee that would prepare for a constitutional conference, to reach a cease-fire, and to abolish the state of emergency.

SPLA Radio Commentary on Cease-Fire

LD1505200889 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 15 May 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] The declaration of a 1-month long cease-fire by SPLM-SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement-Sudanese People's Liberation Army] at the beginning of this month sent shock waves through the antipeace sections of the political establishments, riveted world attention on Sudan and caught the prime minister completely off guard. Coming as it did in the midst of an old guard government diplomatic offensive and a relatively low-key posture by SPLM-SPLA, the temporary halt to the fighting called for by the movement was not exactly what everybody expected.

When pressed by expatriate reporters for a reaction to the cease-fire announcement, Mr Sadiq, who must have been bewildered, could only say this government considered the move positive. Although the announcement has been designed to boost the peace momentum by giving Khartoum a helping hand with implementation of the provisions of the Sudanese peace initiative, it is rather amazing that an appropriate and more formal acceptance of the SPLA offer has not been made yet. This

clearly means the prime minister was never prepared to face the challenge posted by the SPLA peace move. The movement has the disturbing recollection that the prime minister had pledged that he would have nothing to do with any peace initiative in which he did play an instrumental role and perhaps this explains his lukewarm attitude to the SPLM-SPLA-DUP [Democratic Unionist Party], otherwise, known as the Sudanese peace initiative.

When the new government was formed and the whole world told that the initiative rejected earlier had finally been accepted, Mr Sadiq thought he now had the SPLA cornered. Apparently, there after he said that in complacency, vainly waiting for the SPLA to commit some sort of blunder such as rescinding the Sudanese peace initiative. [sentence as heard].

However, after it has become evident that the SPLA is determined to hold on to the initiative at all costs, the prime minister has had to rethink his strategy. His latest utterances are indicative of a desire to undermine the on-going peace process by maneuvering within the confines of the Sudanese peace initiative itself. In spite of the clarity of the terms contained in the initiative, the prime minister appears to be bent on negotiating those very points. Not even a single provision of the initiative has been implemented and the prime minister leaves nobody in doubt as to where he stands on the issue. As far as his is personally concerned, all requirements stipulated by the Sudanese peace initiative have been fully met except for the lifting of the state of emergency and the declaration of a cease-fire.

The prime minister has entangled himself in a web of contradictions and absurdities to say the least. On the one hand, he asserts that shari'a laws have been frozen and that the defense pacts ar either defunct or have never existed, but at the same time admits that differences of opinion between the SPLA and Khartoum on the same matters still prevail and would have to be overcome. The obvious implication is that neither the question of shari'a nor defense pacts have been resolved, but notwithstanding the two hurdles the prime minister prefers to sidestep them and discuss instead the lifting of the state of emergency and the declaration of a cease-fire. There is a mutual understanding stemming from logic that a cease-fire and ending of the state of emergency could be settled last and immediately prior to convening of the national constitutional conference. As this is indeed the case and hopefully assuming that Mr Prime Minister does not dissent from this otherwise unanimous view, it becomes extremely difficult to indicate a situation where a cease-fire that forms an integral part of an accord itself remains only a sort of resolution.

Judging from the character of the prime minister's recent remarks, there is a possibility that the peace ministerial committee could soon become a redundancy. The prime minister must have ignored altogether the prospect of a meeting between SPLA representatives and the peace ministerial committee. Otherwise, he would not have attempted to launch his own parallel efforts by suggesting a meeting of a joint technical-military committee in the middle of this month.

It is hardly a debatable point that the notoriously gruesome penalties prescribed by shari'a are not being carried out in practice, but it is equally true that offenders remain liable to undergo the ordeal of being charged and tried under the hudud [Islamic legal punishments]. Indeed, once an unfortunate offender has been convicted under shari'a, the certainty of being subjected to any of a number of degrading punishments hands over his head like the sword of Damocles. Surely a lot more could be done to ensure that the hudud are frozen in a manner that satisfies the requirements of the Sudanese peace initiative in this regard.

The other sticking point is the issue of the defence pacts. These pacts have sparked off a considerable degree of controversy. Even sworn enemies of peace like Dr al-Turabi, who do not dispute their existence, although they maintain the government should not dispense with them as long as SPLM-SPLA allegedly receives military and material support from foreign backers. [sentence as heard] Initially, Sadiq al-Mahdi was adamant that Sudan had no such pacts. However, following official Egyptian revelations about Numayri's defense pact with Egypt, and deeply embarrassed, Sadiq al-Mahdi has considered that the defense pact which he earlier claimed had been superseded by the so-called Brotherhood Charter was still in force.

The Sadiq government has resorted to futile linguistic acrobatics in a bid to explain away the military pact between Sudan and Libya. The prime minister attempts to draw an attainable distinction between what he calls agreements and what he considers protocols. According to him, the Sudanese peace initiative covers the former but excludes from its ambit the latter. The other argument is that the protocol or protocols that Sadiq thinks should be left intact anyway have either lapsed or are essentially [word indistinct] agreements for the provision to Sudan by Libya of logistical support and training facilities. This is the stand of the prime minister, who also claimed without a blush that under the deal Sudan is obliged to pay Libya for services rendered, although he is fully aware that the entire world knows the country has been relegated to the status of a pauper state.

There is unassailable proof that Libya is much more deeply involved in Sudanese affairs than appearances would tend to suggest. It is common knowledge that Libyan-owned aircraft, piloted by Libyan nationals, one of whom is already in captive in the SPLA hands, carried out frequent bombing raids on SPLA positions and civilian settlements in areas controlled by the movement. How else could such blatant acts of aggression

against Sudanese by foreigners be justified if the relationship between Khartoum and Tripli were not formalized in some sort of document? The case for the existence of such a pact is further augmented by the fact that a comprehensive unity pact had been previously offered by Libya but stemmed by the Sadiq government under pressure from the rest of the political forces.

Bilateral and multilateral agreements between states come in various forms and do not entail definite political and legal consequences, regardless of whether they are labelled agreements, pacts, protocols, treaties, conventions, etc. Sadiq may call the defences agreement with Libya what he likes, but what really matters is that as long as a particular agreement impinges on the national sovereignty, it becomes incumbent upon the government to get rid of it immediately. When the beleaguered government of an impoverished country like Sudan concludes a deal for military supplies with Libya—a country possessing an awesome but largely redundant arsenal that could be profitably utilized for buying favors from weaker states—valid questions would arise as to whether such an agreement has been concluded between equals and strictly on the basis of mutual benefit. In the present case one cannot help the feeling that the Sadiq government is paying an unduly onerous political price that compromises the sovereignty of Sudan.

In evaluating the defense pact with Egypt on the one hand and the protocol with Libya on the other, the prime minister is clearly guilty of the application of double standards. The Sudanese-Libyan military protocol should not be less abhorrent for the simple reason that Numaryi had no part in it and that it happens to be a tremendous asset to the Khartoum regime. A state does not normally require a military pact in order to procure assistance from a given country, but it has to be underlined that the movement's insistence on having the current defense agreements abrogated stems from a belief that if they are allowed to remain they could be formally invoked in future as a pretext for meddling in Sudan's already much complicated problems. The military pacts were basically conceived for two main purposes: to protect the rulers who ostensibly signed them on behalf of the people and to prosecute a costly war the Sudanese masses have firmly and unequivocally rejected. This [words indistinct] underline the two pacts have lapsed, so it is high time that the pacts also went.

Tunisia

French Foreign Minister Meets Prime Minister

LD1305033289 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche held talks with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas at the government palace in Casbah tonight. Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh also attended.

After the meeting, Dumas said in a statement that he and the prime minister discussed the development and prospects of Tunisian-French economic, financial, and cultural cooperation. He added that he also reviewed with Hedi Baccouche a number of international issues relating to the Palestinian cause in light of the recent Paris visit by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, in addition to the future relations between the Maghreb and the EEC. The foreign minister also expressed his satisfaction with the cordial and serious nature of his meeting with the prime minister.

Discusses Relations With Ben Ali

LD1305133189 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] This afternoon at the palace of the republic in Carthage President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received Roland Dumas, French minister of foreign affairs, who was accompanied by Thierry de Beauce, secretary of state in charge of international cultural relations. The audience was attended by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche and Foreign Affairs Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh, as well as the two countries' ambassadors.

Dumas stated that questions of mutual interest were discussed, prior to the visit of President Francois Mitterand to Tunisia. The excellent relations existing between Tunisia and France and the distinguished nature of these relations were affirmed. He pointed out that he raised a number of international questions with President Ben Ali, especially the relations between the Maghreb countries, recent events between Mauritania and Senegal which are a cause of concern to Tunisia and France, as well as the question of Lebanon and the Middle East conflict.

Dumas pointed out that he raised the topic of the visit of Yasir 'Arafat with the president. The French foreign minister concluded his statement by saying that President Ben Ali emphasized to him that he is very much looking forward to the visit of President Mitterand.

President Mitterrand's Visit Discussed

LD1305202889 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 13 mAY 89

[Text] On French-African cooperation, the official visit to Tunisia by the French minister of foreign affairs began yesterday. Roland Dumas and Tunisian Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh are currently chairing the proceedings of the 12th session of the Grand Mixed Commission. Both sides are satisfied with the way relations are developing, but for the Tunisians, however, there is a question mark concerning cultural cooperation

and, more precisely, the problem of the reception of a French TV channel. Here is correspondent (?Rida Bougezi) on the line from Tunis:

[(Bougezi)] At the start of the proceedings of the Grand Mixed Cooperation Commission the French foreign minister said that the state visit by President Mitterrand to Tunisia on 5-6 June will be a very important one for setting the seal on the renewal which has been taking shape in the two countries' relations for several months. Roland Dumas was received a few minutes ago by President Ben Ali. To clear the path for President Mitterrand's visit, the mixed commission had to discuss all aspects of economic and trade cooperation, which both sides describe as excellent, as all minor details have been ironed out, especially the problem concerning the French financial assets and property in Tunisia. The French side also enjoys the position of being Tunisia's first trading partner, as well as the success reaped by French Citroen, Renault, and Peugeot car dealers, and the success of Airbur in the Tunisian market. The only cloud in the relations between the two countries concerns the cultural cooperation, more precisely the reception in Tunisia of a general [generaliste] French TV channel. This problem, complicated by the choice of the CSA [Higher Broadcasting Council] in France which rules out Antenne-2 and FR-3 from the race on TDF-1, is said to be nearing a resolution, according to reliable sources. It is thought that the TDF-1 option is to be dropped in favor of a more practical proposal, details of which are expected to be made known in the next few hours.

Holds News Conference, Departs

LD1405101789 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 14 May 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Roland Dumas stressed that the French-Tunisian talks were characterized by overall identity of views on all issues discussed. The French minister of foreign affairs said this at a news conference yesterday [13 May] at the end of his official visit to Tunisia to preside over the work of the French-Tunisian commission with his counterpart, Abdelhamid Escheikh. He added that the commission made preparations for President Mitterrand's visit to Tunisia at the invitation of President Ben Ali.

Regarding bilateral industrial cooperation, he said that the working party set up by the two sides would soon meet to discuss the development of French investments in Tunisia. Roland Dumas reaffirmed the French government's strong commitment concerning the French television channel which will broadcast programs in Tunisia, in addition to France's contribution toward [words indistinct] Tunisian television.

Regarding the advent of the unified European market, Roland Dumas stressed that the market would be open to all and that the interests of friendly countries, with Tunisia at the forefront, would be defended and protected.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas left Tunis yesterday evening following his 2-day visit.

Kuwait

Trial of 33 on 'Conspiracy' Charges Begins

JN1505155089 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 14 May 89 pp 1, 6

[By Lima al-Khalafawi, ARAB TIMES staff]

[Text] The trial of 33 people, including 18 Kuwaitis, accused of plotting to overthrow the government by force and kill public officials began yesterday.

The indictment was read in open court yesterday but the rest of the trial will be closed to the public.

The courtroom was packed with relatives of defendants, and newsmen.

Under strict security measures defence lawyers were first allowed to enter the courtroom followed by newsmen and relatives.

Twenty of the accused with heads shaved sat in two spearate fenced-off enclosures. The other 13, who are absconding, are being tried in absentia.

Defendants appeared attired in grey prison uniforms. They chatted with their relatives for a few minutes from behind enclosures before the court sessions began. Majority of relatives were women.

The open hearing started after prosecution and defence lawyers, the jury and the judge gathered in the courtroom. Judge Muhammad al-Bani presided. The other judges are Khalid al-Waqiyan and Sa'd al-Dafran. 'Abid al-'Ajami represented the state prosecution and Nizar Husayn is the court secretary.

The case follows a string of sabotage trials in Kuwait starting with that of the pro-Iranian militants found guilty of bombing the US and French embassies in 1983.

The session began by calling the 20 accused persons by names to approve their presence plus their defence lawyers (12 lawyers).

Confirmation took place of the attendance of the three witnesses (including the security officer who supervised the case).

The 20 accused persons in two separate enclosures were 14 Kuwaitis—'Abdallah 'Isa Fayruz-35, Ahmad Husayn Sabti-36, Muhammad Husayn Ashkanani-28, Khalid Ahmad Bahbahani-27, Khalid 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Balushi-27, Yusuf Husayn Baqir-35, Rida Baqir Bahbahani-37, Fadil 'Abbas Jakhaji-28, Muhammad Ahmad al-Khudari-40, Khalid Jabir al-'Utabyi-20, Salih 'Ali Ibrahim-20, Sulayman Muhammad Jarkhaji-25, Ahmad Abu al-Riyah Bu 'Abbas-25, Salim Hamzah Sarquh-25, Murtada Husayn Farhud-19 stateless. Other accused attendants were two Iraqis (Hisham Muhaysin-27, Husam Kashkush-27), two Lebanese (Samir 'Awadah-27, Muhammad al-'Ali-33) and another Briton of Lebanese origin Sami Khujayj-40.

Nizar Husayn read the charges against the 33 accused. Husayn said that during the period 1979 until Dec 25, 1988, within Kuwait all defendants, except one, joined banned groups, the principles of which were to spread ideas aimed at destroying the basic systems of the country through illegal means and also to destroy the social and economic systems in Kuwait. They were aware of the conspiracy of this illegal group which is clear in the investigations. This has been recorded as the first charge.

Some of the defendants have been accused of organising and calling for joining banned groups and publicly calling for overthrowing the country's regime through writings, drawings, and pictures. They printed leaflets in which they included clear calls to the public to change the regime through illegal means. They printed photographs and distributed these leaflets in various parts of the country.

The accused public abused the person of HH [His Highness] the Amir through the leaflets.

The defendants encouraged and conspired to commit the crimes and helped them by supplying printing machines, materials and in photocopying leaflets.

One of the accused, a former clerk at the Public Ports Authority, divulged a defence secret of the country. He passed on secret informations from letters sent by the state security department to the other defendants and other unknown people.

Some of the defendants participated in a criminal conspiracy to kill a number of public officials and their children in Kuwait.

The conspiracy was professionaly planned, the charge said.

An engineer and supervisor at the Communications Ministry was charged with embezzling public money.

The prosecution demanded all defendants be punished according to the law. The evidence, gathered by the prosecution was enclosed with the charge-sheet. However, the evidence was not disclosed to the press.

The prosecution demanded that the hearing should be held in camera, to maintain public discipline, Later, defence lawyers Nadir al-'Awadi and 'Abdallah 'Abd al-Ghafur called for an open hearing.

'Missing' Patrol Boat Located in Iraq

JN1505144389 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 14 May 89 p 1

[By Salim al-Wawan]

[Text] A coast guard gunboat reported missing after chasing a vessel with infiltrators out of Kuwaiti territorial waters has been located in Iraq, according to reliable sources.

The sources said that only three military personnel are aboard the gunboat and all are reported to be in good health. The personal contacted their families on telephone yesterday and said that they faced no problems.

The sources said: "The members on board and the gunboat are being hosted by the Iraqi Coast Guard and the boat and crew will return home today."

In the chase to apprehend the infiltrators, the Kuwait boat entered Iraqi's territorial waters, the sources said.

Heir Apparent Comments on GCC, Other Issues

JN1505185189 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 14 May p 3

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim Al Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, has welcomed the visit that will be made by His Majesty Sultan Qabus of Oman to Kuwait today. He said: When his majesty visits Kuwait, he is moving from his country to his other country and comes as a dear brother to his kinfolk and brothers, who hold great respect for his majesty and the fraternal Omani people.

In an interview with Muhammad ibn Salim al-Marhun, director general and chief editor of the OMANI NEWS AGENCY, his highness said that Omani-Kuwaiti relations are distinguished and brotherly, resting on firm bases of cooperation; similarity of interests, hopes, and objectives; and common destiny. These relations, he added, were embodied by strong historic ties between the two fraternal peoples and countries and bolstered by the blessed march of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC].

His Highness Shaykh Sa'd confirmed that many topics will be discussed by His Majesty Sultan Qabus and his brother, the amir of Kuwait, may God protect them both. He said that priority will be given to bolstering the brotherly ties and broadening bilateral cooperation between the two fraternal countries within the framework of the GCC, in addition to holding consultations on the situation in the Gulf region and the developments in Arab and international arenas.

Regarding the 10th Gulf summit conference scheduled to be held in Muscat before the end of the year, His Highness Shaykh Sa'd said that any meeting by leaders of the GCC states is a blessed step that will achieve, with God's blessings, benefits and progress for our peoples, region, and nation.

His highness asserted that on a personal level, these meetings strengthen the ties of cooperation, understanding, and friendliness among the GCC leaders and open new channels for common action, which will bring good to our peoples and nation.

His Highness Shaykh Sa'd expressed the hope that the next GCC summit, which will be held in fraternal Oman, will be the summit of peace, which, we pray to God, will become firm and entrenched so that all hands can begin work, building and cooperating for the sake of the prosperity and well-being of the whole region.

His highness the heir apparent and prime minister said: We look forward toward increasing the contribution of the GCC peoples in the march of cooperation by exchanging visits by citizens and strengthening the ties of cooperation among them. We particularly look forward toward increasing the meetings between the Gulf youth to entrench the bonds of brotherhood and friendliness among them and develop the cultural, intellectual, and social ties that link them together.

Regarding security coordination among the GCC states, His Highness Shaykh 'Abdallah said that this coordination has reached an effective level, which in certain cases goes beyond the clauses of the security agreement. He pointed out that, God willing, cooperation in the security field will increase in the future like all other fields.

His highness added that the security agreement is a mere framework and legal form for a cooperation that already exits and that this agreement will be signed after certain clauses in it have been studied. He asserted that coordination and cooperation exist and are continuing and improving.

Regarding the difference in incentives among the GCC states, His Highness Shaykh Sa'd said: There may be a certain difference in the economic characteristics of each GCC state. This is natural, and it should not hamper or delay the steps of cooperation in the economic field.

His highness said: We believe that with good intentions and sincere desire in cooperation, we will be able to reach the formula that takes care of this difference, benefits common interests, achieves the desired goals, and conserves the momentum of the cooperation march.

Regarding the demarcation of borders between Kuwait and Iraq, his highness said: We have informed our brothers in Iraq of Kuwait's viewpoint on, and concept of the demarcation of borders between the two countries. We have demonstrated Kuwait's great interest in settling

this issue so that brotherly cooperation with Iraq can move to broader fields. His highness said he is confident that through continued contacts and meetings with the brothers in the fraternal country, a settlement to this issue can be reached.

His Highness Shaykh Sa'd affirmed that stable oil prices will serve the interests of the producing and consumer countries as well the world economy and that such a stability can be achieved only through fair and reasonable oil prices that will guarantee good revenues for the producing countries to achieve economic development and prosperity for their peoples from a diminishing natural wealth.

His highness called for honest cooperation among the oil-pruducing countries inside and outside OPEC as well as a commitment to the approved agreements. He praised the initiative launched by his highness the amir of the country during the 43th session of the UN General Assembly last September. The initiative is aimed at easing the sufferings of the Third World countries. It calls on creditor countries to cancel interest on loans to debtor countries and to cancel part of the debts of the poorest countries. His highness added that what is humanitarian in this initiative is that it is launched by a creditor country that calls for the cancellation of interest and part of the debt burdening the debtor countries.

His highness asserted that the initiative constitutes a frank call to the international community, represented in the United Nations, to take practical steps to solve this problem, which threatens the economy of many developing countries. He expressed hope that the creditor countries, most of which are industrialized, will respond to this humanitarian call and draw up practical formulas and steps toward implementing this initiative through the United Nations and the international financial organizations.

His highness also expressed hope that the Iraq-Iran peace negotiations will succeed in reaching a peace agreement to put an end to the war, lay down the basis of a lasting peace, and open the door of a comprehensive cooperation among all countries in the region to start reconstruction. He also stressed that respecting the sovereignty of the region's countries and noninterference in their domestic affairs constitute a basis for achieving security in the region and keeping it far from international conflicts. Moreover, he added, they will also lead to more cooperation, which will serve the region's interests and achieve progress and prosperity for its peoples.

His highness then praised the heroic intifadah [uprising] of the Palestinian people in their occupied land, and said: The intifadah was able to win worldwide sympathy for the just Palestine question and to impose a new phase of conflict with the Zionist occupation. He expressed his belief that it is time for the international community, especially the superpowers, to move and pressure Israel to into putting an end to the policy of repression and terror against civilians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, especially after the PLO's important political steps toward peace.

Regarding the six-member Arab committee on the Lebanese problem, His Highness Shaykh Sa'd said that the committee has done what it can to end bloodshed and comprehenisve destruction in Lebanon, pointing out that the committee's continuous efforts were appreciated by the United Nations, the superpowers, and the international community. He added that the committee took its first practical step to ease the insecure situation in Lebanon by winning the agreement of the parties involved to send Arab observe forces to supervise a cease-fire in Lebanon. He affirmed that if this is achieved, the committee will start to implement its concept of the required political remedy in Lebanon.

His highness expressed his hope that the committee's good offices will succeed in restoring peace, security, and accord in the fraternal country. He stressed that there is no other alternative in light of the dangerous situation and the multisided movements in the Lebanese arena except the continuous and persistent effort to solve the crisis and put an end to the comprehensive destruction, whose repercussions are not confined to Lebanon alone.

His highness added that it is the duty of all the Arab countries, the international community, and the superpowers to support the six-member committee by taking practical measures to enable it to complete its mission in saving Lebanon from its ordeal and restoring security and peace there.

Foreign Minister Meets Arab League Lebanon Group

LD1505220289 Kuwait KUNA in English 1900 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Kuwait, May 15 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, head of the Arab League six-man committee on Lebanon, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Al Sabah Monday received the League's delegation, emanated from the committee.

The delegation, which groups the League's assistant chief Al-Akhdar al-Ibrahimi, Kuwait's Ambassador to Syria Ahmad al-Jasim and commander of the Arab observers force Brigadier 'Ali al-Mu'min, informed Shaykh Sabah on the outcome of their latest efforts and contacts in Lebanon.

Al-Ibrahimi told KUNA, following the encounter, that they exchanged views with Shaykh Sabah on the forthcoming stage of their mission.

He said the delegation will return back to Damascus and then head for Beirut to continue talks with the brothers there "so that Shaykh Sabah would complete Lebanon's file before submitting it to the Good Offices Committee

and to the Arab foreign ministers," who will hold a preparatory meeting in Morocco on the eve of the extraordinary Arab summit, set for May 23-24 in Casablanca.

Shaykh Sabah had earlier in the day conferred with two visiting envoys of Lebanon's acting Premier Dr Salim al-Huss.

The envoys, former Finance Minister Dr Elias Saba and Muhammed Kabani, said they conveyed a message to Shaykh Sabah from Al-Huss dealing with the committee's endeavor for salvaging Lebanon out of its ordeal and importance of continuity of such efforts.

Shaykh Sabah hosted a special lunch banquet in honor of the delegation and Al-Huss' envoys, attended by Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman al-Shahin and other senior officials.

Further on Lebanese Envoys

LD1405163589 Kuwait KUNA in English 1530 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] Kuwait, May 14 (KUNA)—Two personal envoys of Lebanese acting Premier Dr Salim Al-Huss Sunday arrived here on a mission to brief top Kuwaiti officials on current developments in Lebanon.

The envoys, former finance minister Dr Elias Sabah and Muhammed Kabani, said they are carrying messages from al-Huss to HH [his highness] the amir and HH the crown prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Adballah.

In a statement to KUNA upon arrival, Sabah said that they will confer with deputy premier and foreign minister, head of the Arab League six-man committee on Lebanon, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

Sabah expressed his country's admiration and appreciation for Kuwaiti leadership's sincere endeavor toward salvaging Lebanon out of its ordeal.

Regarding his assessments for a reconciliation between the disputed Lebanese quarters, he said their differences are "deep rooted", expressing hope that the Arab countries would back efforts of the league's good offices committee in finding a solution to the Lebanese problem that would satisfy all concerned parties and Arabs as whole.

PDRY

Lebanon's Junblatt Arrives in Aden 14 May

LD1405205589 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] The chairman of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, Brother Walid Junblatt, arrived in Aden at noon today for a visit to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen to last several days. In a statement to ADEN NEWS AGENCY, Junblatt said his visit to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen was aimed at coordinating efforts with regard to the latest events in the Arab arena and particularly in Lebanon. He said there was a real threat directed against the Arabism of Lebanon and its citizens by the Israelis and their agents. On the efforts of the Arab League to settle the Lebanese crisis, Junblatt said: We welcome the Arab League's good offices and efforts for the cease-fire, but the cease-fire in itself is nothing but a truce unless the main issue is addressed: political reform and the Arabization of Lebanon, particularly of the Lebanese Army which has become a tool of colonialism and Zionism.

United Arab Emirates

Defense Minister Meets Britain's Waldegrave

JN1505134389 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1254 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Dubayy, 15 May (WAKH)—Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Makhtum, defense minister of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], today at noon met with William Waldegrave, minister of state at the British Foreign Office.

During the meeting, they reviewed a number of current issues of joint interest, foremost of which are bilateral relations, the situation in the region, and the latest developments with respect to the Middle East cause.

WAM said that Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum expressed his optimism over the continuing calm and stable situation in the region. He affirmed to the British minister the UAE stand represented in the necessity of exploiting this situation to establish permanent peace in the region and helping all its countries and nations live in peace and stability.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum praised Britain's and the EEC's new policies on the Palestinian people's cause.

He called on Britain to exert greater international efforts in seeking to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region to enable the people of the region to live in peace and security and to enable the Palestinian people to practice their legitimate national and political rights represented by establishing their independent state on their national soil.

On the other hand, the British minister expressed his satisfaction over his talks with Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum, which dealt with a number of issues of joint interest, especially the situation in the region, the Middle East issue, and their good bilateral relations. He referred to the positive stands of the UAE on the regional, international, and Arab issues.

Minister of State 'Aqrawi Relieved of Office

JN1505162489 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 May 89

[Excerpt] A presidential decree was issued relieving Minister of State Hashim Hasan 'Aqrawi of his office at his request because of inability to carry out his duties due to illness. [passage omitted]

Bahraini Amir Leaves for Cairo After Saddam Talks

JN1605111089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1007 GMT 16 May 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 16 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn and Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah held a second round of talks here today. The talks focused on bilateral relations.

During this round of talks, which was held at the residence of Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the two sides agreed to resume meetings between the two fraternal countries on all levels, and to promote the joint committee for economic, scientific, cultural, and technical cooperation to ministerial level.

President Saddam Husayn then accompanied his great guest in an official motorcade to Saddam International Airport, where a send-off ceremony took place for the Bahraini amir who left Baghdad for Cairo, concluding a 3-day visit to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Tariq 'Aziz Meets With Bahraini Counterpart

JN1505190489 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received here today Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister of fraternal Bahrain.

During the meeting, they reviewed relations between Iraq and Bahrain and means to improve them in all fields. They also reviewed progress of negotiations between Iraq and Iran, and both sides asserted the need to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace between Iraq and Iran and in the region.

They also discussed current Arab conditions, particularly the developments of the Palestine question and the situations in Lebanon in light of the tasks facing the Arab summit conference.

Both sides agreed on the need to treat the pan-Arab issues seriously, bolster the principles and bases of inter-Arab relations and solidarity, and boost common Arab action.

The meeting was attended by the two Foreign Ministry under secretaries, the head of the Foreign Ministry Arab Department, the head of the Bahraini Foreign Ministry Political Department, the Iraqi ambassador in Manama, and the Bahraini ambassador in Baghdad.

Interior Minister Meets Bahraini Counterpart

JN1505194089 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab this evening met with Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, interior minister of fraternal Bahrain.

During the meeting, they discussed the brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries.

Iraqi Oil Minister on Prices, Production

JN1505181389 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 14 May 89 p 7

[By Mahmud 'Abidin]

[Excerpt] Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi has praised Kuwait's prominent role in Arab cooperation in the oil field as well as its effective and distinguished role in coordination among the Arab countries at the levels of OPEC and the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries [OAPEC].

In a statement to AL-SIYASAH, he added that Kuwait has been the first to contribute to joint Arab action. In his statement to AL-SIYASAH during his stay in Kuwait to participate in the OAPEC Ministerial Council, he expressed his satisfaction with the improvement of oil prices during the recent period. He said that it is still early to assess the situation.

The Iraqi oil minister attributed the improvement of the oil market basically to the growing demand for OPEC's oil as well as to the cooperation of the non-OPEC oil pruducing countries. He pointed out that the issue of increasing OPEC's production quotas will be one of the most important topics to be discussed by the OPEC Ministerial Council on 5 June. He expressed his optimism about the forthcoming conference and said that the ministers will reach an agreement that will achieve the interests of all the member states. He explained that his country's quota is fair in light of the organization's current production ceiling and that Iraq will ask for a special increase of its quota only within the framework of a new lifting of OPEC's production ceiling, pointing out that Iraq produces 2.64 million barrels a day, "a quota that equals Iran's and will remain so"

The Iraqi oil minister also expects the current oil price, $18 per barrel, to continue in 1989, and said that Iraq supports stability in the oil market and that the current official price is suitable for the rest of the year.

The Iraqi oil minister denied that his country has any plans to reconsider exporting oil across Syria and said: We have created all the alternatives that can secure sufficient flexibility for Iraq to export its oil. He pointed out that during the coming months, the building of the pipeline across Saudi Arabia will be finished and that Iraq's export capacity through the various pipelines will exceed 5 million barrels a day during next year. [passage omitted]

Algerian Energy Minister Meets With Ramadan

JN1505143089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received Sadek Boussena, Algerian minister of energy and chemical and petrochemical industries.

During the meeting, Boussena conveyed greetings to the president leader, Saddam Husayn, from his brother, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, and his pride in the good relations existing between the two countries. He also conveyed the Algerian desire to find new fields that will bolster the march of cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

Taha Yasin Ramadan asked the Algerian minister to convey the greetings of President Saddam Husayn to his brother, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, and his excellency's interest in bolstering and improving relations between the two fraternal countries in all fields.

The meeting was attended by Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim and the Algerian ambassador in Baghdad.

Confers With Oil Minister

JN1505135189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, 15 May (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim today met with Sadek Boussena, Algerian minister of energy and chemical and petrochemical industries, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, they discussed fields of bilateral cooperation and reviewed the developments in international oil markets and the outcome of the recent meetings of the ministerial council of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries [OAPEC], which were held in Kuwait and which approved the restoration of Egypt's membership in the organization.

They also reviewed the preparations for the forthoming OPEC eight-member ministerial committee meeting and the ministerial council meeting, which will be held in early June.

Boussena arrived in Iraq yesterday from Kuwait after he participated in OAPEC ministerial council's meetings.

Mauritanian Justice Minister Arrives 15 May

JN1505200389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, 15 May (INA)—The personal envoy to President Saddam Husayn from Mauritanian President Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, Justice Minister Mohamed Salem Ould Mohamed Lemine, arrived in Baghdad this evening. The Mauritanian envoy will convey the condolences of Col Maaouiya to President Saddam Husayn over the death of Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister.

The Mauritanian envoy told INA that he carries a written message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother Mauritanian President Col Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya. The message deals with relations between the two fraternal countries and means to improve them.

The Mauritanian envoy was received at the airport by 'Abdallah Fadil, minister of awqaf and religious affairs, and the Mauritanian ambassador in Baghdad.

Trade Minister Heads Delegation to Beijing

JN1605080689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 May 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 16 May (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih left Baghdad today for Beijing to head Iraq's delegation to the meetings of the sixth session of the Iraqi-PRC joint committee for trade, economic, and technical cooperation. [passage omitted]

Shamir Rejects Linking Elections, Ending Uprising
TA1605103389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 16 May 89

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Shamir has rejected linking a program to put down the uprising with the plan for elections in the territories. The idea was raised in a meeting this morning between the prime minister and the National Religious Party [NRP] Knesset members. Mark Weiss reports:

NRP Ministers Sciaki, Hammer, and Knesset Member Porat asked the prime minister for a comprehensive program to put down the uprising in the territories before elections are held. Among the list of NRP demands was the expulsion of activists from the territories and more powers for settlers to defend themselves from attacks on the road.

The prime minister told the NRP delegation he believes the uprising must be put down, and further measures to that end will be initiated. However, he said, he will not make the quelling of the uprising a precondition for the elections. [passage omitted]

Rabin Comments on PLO Rejection of Election Plan
TA1605084989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Defense Minister Rabin said a short while ago that the fact that the PLO has rejected the Israel Government's peace initiative is not surprising. The initiative was not directed at the PLO; it was addressed to residents of the territories. Patience is required, said Rabin; the residents will realize that if they wish to make progress toward peace, their only alternative is to do so on the basis of the government's initiative.

In the wake of the steps in the Gaza Strip, which include a curfew and an appeal to residents to return to the Strip, the defense minister said, without going into details, that what the authorities intended was to show the residents that permission to work in Israel depends on their behavior. The minister's remarks were reported by our military affairs correspondent 'Amos Har'el.

Rabin, Erez, Goren Meet Territories Notables
TA1505184489 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Here is an item just in from the newsroom. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this evening conferred with 15 Arab notables from various Judaean and Samarian political currents. Mr Rabin explained the Israeli peace plan to his guests and advised them not to miss another historic opportunity to advance their own interests.

Our correspondent Victor Nahmias has learned that in the meeting, that lasted some 2 and ½ hours and ended a short time ago, not all of the participants rejected the peace plan outright because they believe that the plan requires an in-depth reading and examination.

On the Israeli side, the meeting was also attended by Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of government activities in the territories, and Brigadier General Shay Erez, head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria.

Dialogue With PLO Urged
TA1505195289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this evening met 15 notables from Judaea and Samaria and explained the main points of the political plan.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the participants in the meeting stressed that Israel must hold a dialogue with the PLO on the issue of elections in the territories. According to them, elections would only be possible if they were democratic and free, and a part of an overall arrangement.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, Sa'id Kan'an, and Dr Hatim Abu Ghazala from Nabulus.

Further on Meeting With Rabin
TA1605080589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 May 89 pp 1, 14

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday began promoting Israel's peace plan in the West Bank, meeting with 15 Palestinian figures to explain the initiative and urge support for elections in the territories.

Among the Palestinians summoned to Civil Administration headquarters in Bet El were Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj; two businessmen from Nabulus, Sa'id Kan'an and Subhi 'Anabtawi (who is believed to be an Islamic activist); Dr. Hatim Abu-Ghazalah, also from Nabulus; Dr. Thabit Thabit of Tulkarm (who was recently released from administrative detention); attorney Jamil al-Tarifi of Ramallah, and Muhammad al-Ja'bari of Hebron (who is considered pro-Jordanian).

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 16 May in a pool report on pages 1 and 12 notes that "The meeting was not attended by any representatives from East Jerusalem. This is seen as a hint to the participants of Israel's decision not to include Arab inhabitants of the city in the elections."]

Civil Administration sources said that Palestinians affiliated with left-wing factions who are stridently opposed to elections were not invited, nor were persons who signed a petition by 80 prominent Palestinians against the election proposals.

Accompanying Rabin were the coordinator of activities in the territories, Shmu'el Goren, and the head of the Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration, Brigadier-General Shay Erez.

Participants said Rabin urged them to seize the opportunity for elections, arguing that in the past Palestinians had missed historic chances to advance their cause. Rabin explained that, under the Israeli plan, interim arrangements would be linked to talks on a final settlement based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He urged the Palestinians to accept the Israeli initiative as a first stage, without preconditions, in order to break the stalemate in the territories. He noted that the Israeli ideas have full American backing.

Kan'an replied that talks would ultimately have to be held with the PLO, and assurances were needed that interim arrangements would not become permanent, but lead to a second stage in which Israel and the PLO would negotiate.

Frayj said Palestinians did not oppose elections in principle, but the balloting could only be held with PLO approval. He urged confidence-building measures, such as the reopening of schools and the release of prisoners, to ease the atmosphere in the territories prior to the voting. He added that it was premature to respond to the elections initiative, since the PLO had not yet given its response, and details—concerning, for instance, the participation of East Jerusalem residents—were still unclear.

Rabin failed to respond to Frayj's proposals for steps to ease tension, and evaded discussion of the PLO, according to the Palestinians.

Said Frayj: "There was no understanding between us, no agreement on anything. Rabin told us: 'I expected you to say what you said.' And we expected him to say what he said." [passage omitted]

Rabin Meets Gaza Notables

TA1605171889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met with Palestinian notables from the Gaza Strip in his Tel Aviv office. The meeting was one day after he met with a similar group from Judaea and Samaria. Minister Rabin presented to the notables the highlights of the government's peace plan, and clarified that the Palestinians should not miss such a golden opportunity for a settlement. The meeting was attended by PLO supporters and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members, among others. Our correspondent Arye Gus has learned that some of the members who attended the meeting did not reject the election plan out of hand, but they called on Israel to discuss the issue with the PLO.

Nusaybah: Elections Acceptable Under Conditions

TA1605153489 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 15 May 89 p 16

[Interview with Bi'r Zayt University Professor Sari Nusaybah by Khalil Tuma—date and place not given]

[Text] Q: Will Palestinians meet with Ross?

A: Probably some Palestinians figures will meet with him in order to listen to what he has to say about the Shamir plan. Also to listen to what happened in the recent Baker-Shevardnadze meeting and to convey to him the Palestinian position.

Q: But do you really think that such a meeting will be profitable?

A: I believe that meeting with him now, after the U.S. has opened a dialogue with the PLO, can be positive. Palestinians will inform him of our reservations about political developments, and we can make sure we understand the formulating positions of the big powers.

Q: How do you evaluate U.S. positions at present?

A: We, of course, welcomed the starting up of the dialogue between the U.S. and the PLO and considered it a first step on the right path. We feel that the U.S. has a long way to go toward recognizing the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. The recent U.S. position toward PLO requests to join UN organizations in the name of the state of Palestine is very negative. Such a position can even be considered threatening.

Q: Is the U.S. position affected by Israeli pressure?

A: The U.S. position may be the result of Israeli pressure. But the U.S. has not so far made its position crystal clear toward recognizing that we are a people, who should enjoy the right to self-determination, and who have a sole, legitimate representative, which is the PLO.

The U.S. is now hinting at something it calls the political rights of the Palestinian people. The U.S. should be more courageous and recognize the Palestinian people just as it recognizes other peoples.

Q: What do you think is needed to pressure the U.S. to take a positive stand toward our people?

A: It should be noticed that the U.S. and Israel are not the only two essential players in the political arena. This arena also comprises other players, foremost of which is the Soviet Union, currently an ally with regards to the legitimate demands of the Palestinian people. There is also the European Community, which has begun to

recognize the necessity of reaching a just settlement. The political scene is wider than the U.S. and Israel and the general political equation is the one which will force the settlement we expect sooner or later.

Q: But do you think the Arab regimes have done what they ought to in this respect?

A: The Arab regimes are never angry at the U.S. in general. So it is difficult to count on them. This does not mean that their peoples share their positions. The power however is in the hands of the governments and not in the hands of the peoples, so it is difficult to think that it is possible to create an effective reaction from these governments to the U.S. But once again I have to stress the effectiveness of the Palestinian people through their Intifadah [uprising] and the pressure it has generated. Through that we should look at the total international picture which comprises the sympathy of the European Community and the Soviet Union which has started to take an effective role in the conflict.

We should also remember that within the U.S. and Israel there are official and non-official sectors which have begun to understand that a settlement which responds to Israeli interests and to the interests of all the peoples of the region should be reached. The effectiveness of these sectors will be enhanced and will influence the governments of Israel and the U.S. sooner or later.

Q: Do you think there is any way to use Shamir's elections plan to serve the Palestinian cause?

A: There are some questions put forth by the U.S. to the Israeli government concerning the elections and Shamir's plan in general. The Palestinian position, in my opinion, should be a mixture of flexibility and firmness. It should cling to the necessity of recognizing the right of the Palestinians to self-determination and at the same time considering the possibility of studying all proposals which may lead to that goal. So if we consider that through European, American and Soviet pressure, the elections could be programmed to become a stage among other stages that will inevitably lead to establishing the independent Palestinian state, then the elections will be acceptable. Nevertheless, if Shamir insists on his plan as it was formulated, then it will be rejected.

Further on Nusaybah Remarks

TA1505070989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 15 May 89

[Excerpt] There appears to be some disagreement among Palestinians in the territories as to the conditions under which elections would be acceptable. Palestinians meeting with an American State Department delegation yesterday in Jerusalem say elections could take place, provided there is international supervision and PLO participation. But a group of five Palestinians who did not attend the meeting say Prime Minister Shamir's election proposal is grossly deficient because it is not part of a political process clearly leading to a Palestinian state. Shlomo Berger has the story:

[Begin recording] [Berger] Five Palestinians who did not show up at yesterday's meeting with the American delegation sent a letter to the U.S. consul, saying they could not adequately express their views in the time available. The letter was signed by Sari Nusaybah, Ghassan al-Khatib, Zuhayr al-Kamal, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, and 'Izz al-Din al-'Uryan. The group said they hoped another meeting could be held this Tuesday. The five Palestinians said they reject the Shamir elections proposal. Sari Nusaybah:

[Nusaybah] All of us as Palestinians are not opposed to the principle of elections. We are in favor of elections on condition that such elections would be part of a political process that leads clearly and unambigiously to our right to self-determination and our establishment of a Palestinian state. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 15 May in a report by Joel Greenberg on pages 1 and 10 adds: "A well-informed source involved in arranging the meetings said the Palestinians stayed away because of dissatisfaction over the invitation of Islamic activists from Gaza, including Dr. Mahmud 'Azar of the Islamic University who is considered a backer of the Islamic Resistance Movement [Hamas].

"Those who did not attend, denied that internal disagreements had kept them away."]

Notable Arrested Before Meeting U.S. Official

TA1605123489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] The security forces arrested Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib from Ramallah this morning. Dr al-Khatib was arrested several hours before he, along with other Palestinian notables, was to meet U.S. representative Dennis Ross.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Dr al-Khatib, a lecturer at Bi'r Zayt University, is considered one of the leading activists of the Palestinian Communist Party.

Khatib is a member of a group of notables which sent a letter 2 days ago to the U.S. consul in Jerusalem expressing their opposition to the government's plan to hold elections in the territories.

Notables Meet With Ross

TA1605171089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Sari Nusaybah, who is one of the most prominent Palestinian leaders identified with the PLO, rejected Shamir's plan this afternoon, following a meeting with the U.S. delegation. Nusaybah added, however, that he did not rule out elections in principle. Our correspondent 'Ido Shargil reports:

[Begin recording] [Shargil] Four Palestinian notables met with the U.S. delegation at the home of the U.S. consul in Jerusalem 2 days ago. For that meeting, the initiative for their invitation came from the Americans, and 11 of those invited did not show up. This time the meeting was held at the Palestinians' request, and they chose their six representatives and the meeting's location—a hotel in East Jerusalem.

One of the designated participants, Ghassan al-Khatib, was arrested scant hours before the meeting and did not arrive. The Palestinian notables vigorously protested his arrest to their interlocutors.

At the meeting's conclusion one of the prominent Palestinian leaders in the territories, Dr. Sari Nusaybah, spoke to journalists. He said that the discussions revolved around the Palestinian peace initiative [sentence as heard]. He voiced criticism of Shamir's three nays: no to a Palestinian state; no to an international conference; and no to negotiations with the PLO. Nusaybah also rejected the election proposal:

[Nusaybah in English] We rejected categorically the elections which are proposed within the context of the peace plan that the Israeli Cabinet endorsed yesterday. On the other hand we said ....

[Shargil translates above and continues] ...We are not against elections as a democratic process. We will support them if they are part of a process leading to a Palestinian state and the right to self-determination. Dr. Nusaybah detailed the principles he supports.

[Nusaybah in English] But we basically insisted that there are certain principles which cannot be ignored if any peaceful settlement is to be achieved. Namely that the PLO must be addressed as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people...

[Shargil translates above and continues] ...and the rights of the Palestinians, including the right to an independent state, be recognized. If these demands are not met, no peace initiative is possible.

Dennis Ross, the head of the American delegation only said that it was a beneficial talk, and that he expects more meetings in the future. [end recording]

Public Warned of 'Fabricated' Israeli Reports

TA1605111589 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 11 May 89 p 1

[Text] Jerusalem—National institutions and figures in the occupied land issued a statement 2 days ago addressed to public opinion in which they stressed their rejection of reports disseminated by Israeli news media about many national figures in the occupied land.

The statement warned the residents not to pay attention to such fabricated reports, which aim at incitement against these figures.

Israeli news media had mentioned the names of several residents and personalities from the occupied land regarding the distribution of funds and the authorship of the intifadah [uprising] leaflets. Among the names that were mentioned are Dr Sari Nusaybah and Radwan Abu-'Ayyash.

Meridor Urges U.S. To Be 'Clear' With Arabs

TA1505151089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] We will not come out with a new initiative if the political plan is rejected, Justice Minister Dan Meridor said today. In any event, he says, it will not be forced on anyone. Minister Meridor spoke to reporters on territories affairs. Our correspondent 'Ido Shargil heard him today:

[Begin recording] [Shargil] In the near term, some immediate action needs to be taken in the territories, says Justice Minister Dan Meridor. This includes disseminating the political plan among the Arabs of the territories; continuing the struggle against the intifadah [uprising]; and explaining the plan to the U.S. Administration.

[Meridor] The Americans must make clear to the Arabs the distance they are willing to go, beyond which they would not budge. Should the Arabs feel that more could be extorted from the United States, there would be no chance for our plan to be accepted by them.

[Shargil] The justice minister disqualified the PLO altogether. The PLO would reject any plan we would present, he says, and we will not accept their position. We will be firm and fight the intifadah. The political plan, however, is not connected to, and was not influenced by, the uprising.

[Meridor] As long as the intifadah—in the eyes of the Arabs at least—is gaining them achievements, they will never join any other process. As long as they favor the intifadah over elections, they will see no reason to join the elections.

[Shargil] Should the political process reach a stalemate, Minister Meridor says, we would not initiate a new political plan. The Arabs must realize that this is our only plan. [end recording]

Partial Entry Ban on Palestinian Workers Urged

TA1505084089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 May 89 p 1

[Report by Jeff Black, Mikhal Sela', and Mikha'el Rotem]

[Excerpts] The Labour Ministry wants the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to prevent West Bank and Gaza Strip workers without work permits from crossing the Green Line to come to work in Israel.

Labour Ministry officials said yesterday they were waiting for Defence Minister Rabin's reply to this request, which is expected later this week. Of the 110,000 workers from the territories who regularly work inside Israel, only some 45,000 have the necessary Employment Service permits.

However, the Defence Ministry spokesman last night said he was unaware of any Labour Ministry request to deny entry into Israel of Palestinian workers who lack permits. He noted that it was the job of the police, and not the IDF, to ensure adherence to the regulations concerning the employment of Palestinian workers.

Meanwhile, Lakhish district police have decided to employ special measures beginning today on the main Ashdod-Gaza road in order to avoid a recurrence of the last several days' stone-throwing at Palestinian cars. [passage omitted]

A Lakhish district police spokesman said that in several locations on the Ashdod-Gaza road yesterday, Israelis gathered and threw stones at Palestinian cars, damaging at least four. [passage omitted]

Unlimited Curfew Imposed on Gaza Strip

TA1505173789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] This evening, at 1930 a general curfew will be imposed on all of the Gaza Strip. The entry of local residents into the territory of Israel will be forbidden. Residents of the Gaza Strip who work in Israel will be asked to return to the Strip. A separate announcement will be made on the time of the curfew's end.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1700 GMT on 15 May adds that "an army spokesman gave no reason for the decision."]

Gazans Advised To Return Home

TA1605075789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 16 May 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Chief Superintendent 'Adi Gonen, spokesman of the Israel Police national headquarters, has announced that business owners are requested to notify their personnel of the following instruction. Our police affairs correspondent Shlomi Stein reports:

The following is the police communique: The Israel Police appeals to all employers and requests them to advise their Gaza workers of the curfew and the prohibition against leaving the Gaza Strip and crossing the Green Line. In addition, Israel Police hereby notifies all employers that they must instruct their personnel to return to their homes in the Gaza Strip. Israel Police will visit workplaces employing large numbers of Gaza residents staying in Israel in order to locate them and inform them of the order.

This was the police spokesman's communique. It appears that the police will refrain from physically sending Gazans back home. It seems at this stage that the policemen will inform them of the obligation to return to the Gaza Strip. It is unclear what action the police intend to take against those who remain inside the Green Line. The police spokesman refused to address this question.

Gaza Curfew Meant as 'Message'

TA1605075089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 May 89 p 14

[Report by Mikhal Sela' and Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpts] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Southern Command spokesman announced to journalists yesterday that "Gazans will not be allowed to enter Israel and Gazans who work in Israel are requested to return home." The statement was not communicated to the Gazan public, and the spokesman did not elaborate.

A high-ranking military source said the new order was meant as a message to the residents of the Gaza Strip. "The Gaza population should know that we—and not some leaflet—decide when and how life is to be disrupted," he said.

A general and unlimited curfew was reimposed on the Gaza Strip last night. According to Palestinian sources, hundreds of Gazans were arrested last week, a large proportion of them supporters of the Islamic movements.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0630 GMT on 16 May reports that "thousands of Gaza Strip residents working in Israel have been traveling home last night and this morning in the wake of the unprecedented IDF order stating that all Arabs working in Israel must return to the Strip immediately. The IDF has announced that the Israel Police must enforce this order." The report adds that "The media are also barred from the territories, except for an organized tour that will be escorted by the IDF spokesman's representative."]

Troops in the Gaza Strip yesterday shot and killed a Palestinian and wounded 23 others in clashes, Palestinian sources said. The IDF did not have any information on the killing or the injuries.

Palestinians clashed with soldiers near the mosque in Khan Yunus refugee camp in the afternoon. Fadil Hunaydak, 35, was shot in the chest and killed. Fourteen others were wounded in this incident, according to Palestinian sources. Earlier yesterday, another Khan Yunus resident was wounded. A 50-year-old woman, 'Aysha Abu-Shawish, was stabbed to death during the clash. Palestinians claimed she was a collaborator.

Four persons were wounded in Gaza yesterday, one in the al-Shaykh Radwan neighbourhood, which was been under curfew for the 10th day, and three others in other parts of the town. [passage omitted]

Four people were wounded in Rafah yesterday.

Security forces also arrested men from the village of Maghayir, near Ramallah, who are suspected of killing on May 3 a local man they accused of cooperating with Israel. They are alleged to have belonged to Fatah. No demolitions were reported in the village.

At the Al-'Arrub refugee camp north of Hebron troops demolished two homes of men suspected of attacking troops and planting bombs at soldiers' hitchhiking posts and train-tracks in Beersheba. In Hebron, three houses belonging to alleged members of the group were sealed.

A Dayr Nizam, near Ramallah, soldiers demolished the house of a man suspected of stabbing a Border Policeman in al-Birah in February. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0400 GMT on 16 May adds: "Two firebombs were thrown last night at an Israeli vehicle traveling near the village of Bayt Wazan in Samaria. There are no reports of injuries or damage. A Voice of Israel reporter says that there was a spate of stone-throwing incidents yesterday near the village of 'Azzun along the Qalqilyah-Nabulus road. Several cars were damaged. Two settlers from Qiryat Arba' were lightly injured last night when stones were thrown at them. One was hit in Hebron and the other in Halhul."]

Curfew Enforcement Explained

TA1605110589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 16 May 89

[Telephone interview with Police Commissioner David Kraus by moderator Karmit Gay and police correspondent Moshe Nussbaum—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Gay] Good day, Commissioner David Kraus.

[Kraus] Good day.

[Gay] How do you carry out this project of locating Gaza residents? How do the police know who is a Gazan and who is not?

[Kraus] First of all, we appealed to the employers via various radio stations, asking them to inform their workers of the order prohibiting their stay inside the Green Line and of the curfew in the Gaza Strip.

[Gay] Did they respond to the appeal? Is it not true that they stand to lose a large segment of their personnel?

[Kraus] No, there has been a generally positive response to the appeal, and the Gazans are returning home. We will allow the parties involved in this matter to get organized; after that, we will have no choice but to detain people who defy the order and to transfer them back to Gaza, because their refusal constitutes an offense. We have the authority to detain people committing this offense.

[Gay] Transfer by force?

[Kraus] There is no need to do it by force; why resort to force? We will simply put them in cars and transfer them. Why use force? [passage omitted]

[Nussbaum] How long will you allow them to return voluntarily?

[Kraus] We began this drive only a few hours ago. I estimate that tomorrow morning we will begin using a different approach, if at that time there are still people who have not returned. I believe they will be few.

[Gay] This method has never been resorted to in the past, although there have been periods of curfew in the Gaza Strip. In the past, those whom the curfew caught inside the Green Line were allowed to stay.

[Kraus] Yes, well, the defense minister has explained this. The policy is set down by the defense establishment, and once it is set down, the police are responsible for carrying it out in the field. [passage omitted]

IDF Detains 'Dozens' in Hebron, Ramallah

TA1605154189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] have detained dozens of people suspected of hostile activity in an intensive operation last night and this morning in villages in the vicinity of Hebron and Ramallah. Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that among the detainees are wanted people for whom the security forces have been searching for many months, including people suspected of having murdered collaborators. 'Amram Mitzna', the commander of the IDF Central Command, said that there is a link between the policy in the Gaza Strip and that pursued in Judaea and Samaria, despite the fact that each area has its unique character. The IDF operations are meant to reduce the violence, to demonstrate control in the area, and to apprehend the intifadah's [uprising] activists in the villages.

The commander of the IDF force said that residents were also caught at the entrance to the villages. They were apparently to give a warning signal in anticipation of an IDF operation.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Settlers Rescued From Arab Riot

TA1505110689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] safely rescued six Gush Emunim hikers who were caught at noon on one of the hills near the village of Bayta in Samaria because of rioting in the village. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the IDF is examining the circumstances of the incident.

Four soldiers who were traveling in a civilian car on the road leading to Ha'ela Valley stoned an Arab car, smashing its windshield. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the police detained the four soldiers, who are currently being interrogated.

An illegal procession by Arab youths in the Shu'fat refugee camp north of Jerusalem was dispersed with the help of tear gas at noon today. Nobody was hurt.

A stone was thrown at a Migdal Ha'emeq resident's car near the village of Yafa in the Nazareth area this morning. One of the windshields was smashed, but the driver was not hurt.

Gaza Strip Arab Strangled

TA1505180189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] The body of Hasam al-Sha'ka, an 18-year-old resident of the village of Jararah near Khan Yunus, was found this morning bound to a telephone pole. An investigation that followed found out that Al-Sha'ka was strangled. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported that there is no link between the killed man and the IDF. The case is being investigated by the Gaza District police.

Firebombs Thrown at Bus

TA1505194689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] This evening in the al-Shaykh Jarrah neighborhood in East Jerusalem two firebombs were thrown at a bus traveling on line 23 near the American Colony Hotel. One of the bottles ignited. No one was hurt, and only slight damage was caused to the bus. Our police affairs correspondent reports that police and border police units are currently searching the area.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] last night demolished the houses of two members of a terror squad uncovered in the 'Aqabat Jabr refugee camp near Jericho. The squad is suspected of having murdered a local policeman last year because he refused to resign from the force. The IDF spokesman reported that the security forces have uncovered a terrorist squad in this camp whose members are suspected of having murdered the policeman.

The Beersheba District Court handed down a 30-year prison term on Hasan Mahmud Nufal, aged 18, from the Jabalyah refugee camp. He was convicted of murdering Martha Weiss some 9 months ago in her house in Mosav Shafir. The justices decided not to give him the maximum penalty because, at the time he committed the crime, he was a minor. The trial of two of his friends who are also involved in the murder has not ended yet.

The Tel Aviv District Court handed down a 2-year prison term on 'Azam 'Aliya, a 27-year-old resident of the village of Irtah near Tulkarm, after convicting him of drafting a leaflet urging the Arab residents of the territories to stage a strike on a day slated for a general strike. The defendant worked as a maintenance man in a bank branch in the Dizengoff Center and used photocopy machines in it. He forgot the original leaflet in the machine and was thus caught.

West Bank Arab Dies of Wounds

TA1605065789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0630 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] 'Ali Mahmud Muhammad Jabir, from the village of 'Arrabah near Janin, died this morning at Rambam Hospital in Haifa. Two days ago, he fired at two policemen stationed near Shata Prison in the Bet She'an Valley.

Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz has learned from the police that special investigation teams that handled the case reached the conclusion that the man's actions had nationalist motives. On the same day, he robbed an Arab laborer, raped a kibbutz member, and attempted to snatch a soldier's weapon.

Deputy Chief of Staff on Use of Plastic Bullets

TA1505113989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] An affidavit by Major General Ehud Baraq, deputy chief of staff, submitted to the High Court of Justice indicates that the overall number of people killed in the territories has decreased significantly since plastic bullets were introduced. 'Adi Malul reports on Gen Baraq's affidavit:

Since plastic bullets were introduced less than 6 months ago, 154 people have been killed in the territories, 61 of them by plastic bullets, compared to 204 during the preceding 8 months. This was announced by Gen Ehud Baraq in an answer he submitted to an appeal by attorney Felicia Langer to the High Court of Justice.

Gen Baraq specified some of the opening-fire regulations concerning plastic bullets. According to instructions, an attempt should first be made to disperse demonstrators with other means, such as tear gas and rubber bullets. Then, firing should be in the air, and only on commanders' orders. Plastic bullets should be fired below the knee only, and one must not fire them in circumstances that

do not permit accuracy. Firing into a crowd is forbidden, and deliberately shooting at the feet of women and children under the age of 16 should be avoided. As for any incident in which people are killed by plastic bullets, the Military Police launch an investigation and the file is handed over to the military advocate general. In the case of wounds only, so we gather from Gen Baraq's response, the need for medical treatment should be determined. An operational debriefing is conducted regarding every case in which plastic bullets are fired.

The most deadly months regarding casualties caused by plastic bullets were December, during which 19 Arabs were killed, and January, during which 11 Arabs were killed.

So far, 5 soldiers have been killed, and about 1,000 people have been wounded in the territories. As for Israeli civilian casualties, 8 have been killed so far, and about 1,500 wounded.

The plastic bullets, Gen Baraq concludes, are not supposed to be deadly, and since their introduction the number of deaths has decreased by 25 percent. They are used to foil and disperse demonstrations, and this makes a significant contribution to restoring the IDF's deterrence. The deputy chief of staff estimates that had these bullets not been introduced, the number of violent riots would have increased and the IDF's deterrent ability would have been substantially impaired.

Shamir Criticizes Sharon for 'Quarreling'

TA1605124689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] The prime minister severely attacked Minister Ari'el Sharon today. This man, Sharon, got us unnecessarily involved in a dispute with the Americans during the Lebanon war, Shamir said. The prime minister added that Sharon may like quarreling for the sake of quarreling, but he, Shamir, regards this as a disaste..

Shamir made these statements in a meeting with the leadership of the National Religious Party [NRP] dealing with ways to quell the intifadah [uprising].

The NRP members demanded the government consolidate a plan to quell the intifadah, just as it has consolidated a political plan.

Shamir also stated during the meeting that Yitzhaq Rabin is the best, and most suitable man from the Alignment bloc for the post of defense minister.

This was reported by our political correspondent Natan Gutman.

Soviet Official Comments on Election Plan

TA1505140089 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 15 May 89 p 1

["Exclusive" report by Gid'on Kouts]

[Text] Beijing—"I do not think that the plan to hold elections in the territories will bring about peace, because it is based excessively on the Camp David accords, whose negative points exceed their positive ones and consequently preclude the possibility of a comprehensive solution. On the other hand, there could be elections in the territories only if they were part of a process." These remarks were made yesterday in an exclusive interview by DAVAR with Yevgeniy Primakov, member of the Soviet delegation to the Beijing talks, a senior adviser to President Gorbachev, and director of the World Economics and International Relations Institute.

According to Primakov, the Soviet Union objects to separate agreements but not to "interim phases." "The notion of elections, as raised in the plan, cannot be considered an interim phase," he said.

Gorbachev's senior adviser told DAVAR that the political contacts between Israel and the Soviet Union will continue through the Soviet delegation in Israel and the Israeli delegation in the Soviet Union. "Without Syria, nothing will be accomplished in the Middle East. I believe that Syria would agree to a solution involving an international conference and would take part in one. It has already voiced its agreement to this effect, taking our position into consideration," Primakov noted. He reiterated the Soviet Union's support for "an international conference that would include bilateral contacts and that would take into account the need to base a lasting agreement on three points: safeguarding the security of all countries in the region, including Israel; self-determination for the Palestinians; and an Israeli territorial withdrawal.

"Everything could be discussed in a conference. To this day, I do not understand why Israel objects to it, seeing that everyone would then commit themselves to its existence and security, albeit not to its expansionist tendencies," Primakov added.

The senior Soviet official went on to tell DAVAR: "The PRC and the USSR are two world superpowers, and as such they must discuss the situation in the entire world; such a discussion will also include the Middle East issue. Nevertheless, a joint initiative on the issue should not be expected at the moment. The Soviet Union has proposed a regular channel of communication in the framework of the UN Security Council, and one should not rule out the possibility of such a joint initiative in the future."

Arens Urges Mubarak To Meet Shamir on Plan

TA1605081689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 May 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menaham Shalev]

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens yesterday urged Egyptian President Mubarak to agree to a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in which U.S. President George Bush might also participate.

Arens transmitted his appeal at a meeting held yesterday with Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni, on the eve of his departure for a 10-day trip to the U.S. and Europe.

Arens says he believes that by now "things have improved" with the U.S. because of Israel's peace initiative: "I think we did the right thing."

Likud sources said yesterday that the perceived success of Arens's trip could be pivotal in the attempts to contain the formidable opposition to the initiative within the Likud Central Committee—which will convene shortly after his return.

In an interview with THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday, Arens emphasized the crucial importance of the three points in Shamir's initiative which have attracted far less attention than the fourth point—the elections proposal.

In offering the elections, Arens said, Israel has taken a "great step forward. On the first three points, the people who have to make concessions are others."

The foreign minister believes that if progress is not achieved on the other points there will be no progress on the elections proposal either, although he is not referring to a formal linkage.

But, he expects at least "initial" movement on the other points before elections take place. "It's clear to me that elections are going to take time: We need a cessation of hostilities, then we need a period where things are put into place, where there is electioneering, where people are running for office, and finally the elections. That's not going to be done in a day, that's not going to be done in a month.

"On the other hand a meeting between Mubarak and Shamir could take place next week, if there was agreement on it. Some initial contacts with another Arab country which has refused to have any contact with Israel could take place next month.

"If it turns out that none of the other Arab countries are ready to make any kind of move to normalize relations with Israel, establish peace, it will be very difficult to think in terms of resolving the Israeli-Arab dispute, and that will make it that much more difficult, if not impossible, to resolve the problems that exist between Israelis and Palestinians."

A Mubarak-Shamir meeting would go a long way towards the implementation of one point of Shamir's peace initiative—reaffirmation of the Camp David Accords, he said.

Arens "fully believes" that Mubarak will play an instrumental role in the implementation of the second point—normalization of relations with other Arab countries. The Egyptian President, he says, can be of "inestimable help."

Concerning the third point, rehabilitation of Palestinian refugees, Arens said, Israel will call on the seven advanced industrialized nations—especially the U.S. and Japan—to "make the effort that we are talking about."

"If it turns out that the U.S. and the other industrialized states do not want to take part...it is too bad...I can tell you with absolute certainity, that if an effort is made to rehabilitate the refugees, it will be very helpful for progress."

Finally, elections: Arens says that there are still "some details to be worked out—including the participation of East Jerusalem residents." He says Israel will be "especially interested in hearing the views of the Palestinians."

"...When the majority of the population begins to realize that it is in their best interest to cooperate in Israel's initiative, ... when that feeling begins to percolate through the population in the areas then I think you will see a cessation of violence."

Arens says that a free and open election campaign in the territories is "essential." But he adds: "I told (the Americans)—you have to understand that... a man who announces that he is a supporter of the PLO will have no problem. Somebody who runs on a ticket which says 'I think Jews and Arabs have to live together' ... might get a bullet in his head."

"If ... all those elected will be PLO adherents who will put forth very extreme demands, then there won't be any agreement. And I assume that will be one of the concerns in the minds of the Palestinian voters."

Arens Congratulates WHO Envoys on 'Foiling' PLO

TA1305164689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens congratulated the Israeli representatives in the WHO conference in light of the rejection of the PLO's membership application. Our political correspondent reports that Minister Arens praised the action of Pinhas Eli'av, the Israeli ambassador to the UN bodies in Geneva, and Yehezqel Barne'a,

the head of the Foreign Ministry's International Organizations Division. In his letters to the two, Arens noted that a halt had been put to the PLO's operations abroad, the headline being the foiling of the attempt of the terrorist organization to join a humanitarian health organization. Several days ago, Minister Arens sent a letter to James Baker in which he expressed Israel's appreciation for the U.S. position on this issue.

Health Minister on Decision

TA1305055089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 13 May 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Israel's health minister, Ya'aqov Tzur, who has been attending the WHO conference in Geneva, said there is no doubt that the determined stand taken by the United States persuaded many countries to reject the proposal to accept the PLO's application for membership because they realized that this would lead to the destruction of the WHO.

In Jerusalem, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said the compromise resolution adopted contains political elements which Israel rejects, such as the clause expressing the hope that the Palestinian people will be fully represented in the WHO by its legitimate representatives.

The WHO is not supposed to deal with political issues, the spokesman said. Israel believes that the PLO's request was illegal and contravenes both the WHO Constitution and international law, and therefore should not have been brought to the health organization for consideration. There is no place for a terrorist organization among the members of a humanitarian organization, the spokesman said.

Official Rejects WHO Allegations on Territories

TA1605090489 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 May 89 p 3

[Report by 'Edna Aridor]

[Text] "The reform in Israel's health services aims at decentralization, at transforming government hospitals into independent economic bodies. The same plan is being examined with regard to health services in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza in a bid to grant administrative and economic autonomy to hospitals in those areas," Prof Yoram Lass, director general of the Health Ministry, told the WHO council session in Geneva yesterday, which discussed the denunciation of Israel because of the condition of health services in the territories.

Prof Lass noted that "after touring Judaea and Samaria with the head of the Civil Administration, the government hospital in Ramallah was chosen as the first facility where this plan will be implemented. This hospital has an association of friends in New York, but has had a hard time collecting donations because of a change in ownership and because it is supervised by an Israeli director. The transformation of this hospital into an independent institution responsible for raising funds and paying salaries to its employees will enable it to collect donations to acquire new buildings and equipment and to compete with the private clinics that have cropped up in the region."

Following the health minister's presentation of the Shamir plan to the WHO a week ago, Prof Lass added that the autonomy granted to institutions to administer health affairs independently should be seen as the core for the emergence of a strong and independent local leadership that enjoys public support.

Prof Lass stressed that despite the intifadah [uprising] local inhabitants are not barred from medical treatment, and rejected all allegations to this effect. He said that the debate on the PLO's complaint borders on hypocrisy, since the WHO has not felt the need to discuss the condition of the civilian population in Beirut and has chosen to focus on the population in the territories. In the deliberations on the proposed denunciation, Prof Lass was countered by Dr Fathi 'Arafat, Yasir 'Arafat's brother.

According to the latest report issued by the health services in Judaea and Samaria, there has been a drastic drop in the incidence of contagious diseases in the last few years, with only 0.1 percent of every 100,000 people contracting polio, diphtheria, mumps, or tetanus. The number of hospital beds and the acquisition of new equipment has increased, while infant mortality has decreased.

Prime Minister Receives U.S. Envoy, Delegation

JN1505201189 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] The prime minister received at his office this evening the United States State Department envoy, Dennis Ross, and his delegation, who are currently making a tour of the region. Mr Ross briefed the prime minister on the outcome of the talks which took place in Moscow between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and the Soviet foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, particularly the talks involving the Middle East. Views were also exchanged on the recent developments in the region. Both sides underlined the need for movement towards finding a peaceful, durable, just, and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The prime minister reiterated Jordan's support of the efforts being made by the Palestine Liberation Organization to participate in the peace process in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The meeting was attended by the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Mr Marwan al-Qasim; the minister of state for cabinet affairs, Ibrahim 'Izz al-Din; and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Mr al-Qasim received the delegation at his office this afternoon. Views were exchanged on the latest developments in the region. Mr al-Qasim stressed the need to intensify efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council and the parties to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Al-Qasim Receives U.S. Officers Delegation

JN1305120089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] Amman—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received at his office this morning a delegation of officers of the U.S. National Defense University.

The minister explained to the delegation Jordan's position on the regional situation and affirmed Jordan's support for the efforts being exerted by the Palestinian leadership with the aim of participating in the peace process to reach a comprehensive, durable, and just settlement to the Palestine question. He referred to the unity of the Arab position regarding the best way to attain peace and indicated that the intransigent Israeli stand has continued to be the only obstacle in the way of a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

During the meeting, the minister and the delegation reviewed the development of ties between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the United States.

Saudi Air Force Chief Meets Prime Minister

JN1505175489 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] His Excellency Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, prime minister and minister of defense, met this afternoon with His Highness Khalid ibn Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, commander of the Air Force in fraternal Saudi Arabia, in the presence of His Highness Faysal ibn Husayn.

During the meeting, they discussed means of developing existing cooperation relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia in various fields in implementation of the directives of His Majesty King Husayn and King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques.

His highness the guest prince and His Highness Prince Faysal lunched with his excellency the prime minister. The chief of staff, head of General Intelligence, the Royal Air Force commander, several ranking military officials, and members of the guest prince's delegation were also present.

Meets Chief of Staff

JN1505180589 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Talif received this morning in his office at the General Command His Highness Khalid ibn Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, commander of the Royal Saudi Air Force, and his delegation. During the meeting, they reviewed the situation in the region in general, aspects of cooperation, and issues of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by a number of the chief of staff's aides and the commander of the Royal Air Force.

The guest prince and accompanying delegation, in the presence of the chief of staff, heard a military report on the development of the Armed Forces.

Prime Minister Receives Ma'an Deputation 15 May

JN1505124689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Amman—His Excellency Prime Minister Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir this morning received at the Prime Ministry a delegation composed of the mayor of Ma'an and city notables and tribal chiefs. To begin the meeting, Mayor of Ma'an Musa Khalaf Fayyad gave a speech hailing His Majesty King Husayn, the leader of the homeland and guardian of its auspicious march. He declared the loyalty of the people of Ma'an to the victorious Hashemite banner. Ma'an, he went on, will remain faithful to the pledge, and sustain an abiding commitment to the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, considering that the city was privileged to greet the vanguard knights of the Great Arab Revolt led by the late His Majesty King 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn, the founder of this young Kingdom.

Fayyad added: The people of Ma'an will pursue the auspicious march under the leadership of King Husayn toward new heights of development, growth, and progress.

The delegation presented a number of demands to promote Ma'an's health, educational, and social services and public utilities as well as job opportunities in the economic establishments around the city.

His excellency the prime minister said he was delighted to be meeting with a deputation from Ma'an that is held in high regard by every Hashemite Arab since the city marked the first station of the Arab freedom fighters. The government, the prime minister said, is going all out to implement the instructions of His Majesty King Husayn by opening channels of dialogue and communication with the citizenry from all walks of life, driven by the hope of progress and affluence.

The conditions in the Kingdom require the combined efforts of citizenry and government if we are to surmount the difficulites, said the prime minister. We are members of one family under His Majesty King Husayn working to promote the interests of the homeland and its children. Al-Sharif Zayd added: Following directives by His Majesty King Husayn, cabinet ministers are to make tours of the Kingdom's governorates to familiarize themselves with various needs of the citizens and to address them on the spot or as soon as possible.

We are experiencing hard economic and financial times, said his excellency the prime minister. If we are to weather this difficult phase, we must display solidarity among ourselves and make effective contributions, he added.

His excellency said he was grateful to, and appreciative of, all the people of Ma'an and asked the deputation to convey to them the greetings and good wishes of His Majesty King Husayn.

The meeting was attended by Ibrahim 'Izz al-Din, state minister for cabinet affairs.

Government Affirms Support for Press Freedom

JN1505195789 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] The prime minister, Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, has said the government is eager to protect the freedom of the press and to advance the profession of journalism, as long as it is governed by a sense of responsibility.

The prime minister made the remarks while meeting with a number of journalists at his office this evening.

The prime minister instructed the Ministry of Information to settle all matters related to reporters censored from writing in the past so they could resume their activity and serve their country and community effectively. The prime minister said the government, on the instructions of his majesty the king, will render every possible support to journalists and is eager to provide the appropriate climate for journalism to carry out its national role.

Editorial on King's Address to Al-Salt Group

JN1305062489 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 May 89 p 4

[Editorial: "National Charter"]

[Text] It is no coincidence that His Majesty King Husayn chose the Al-Salt delegation which met with him Wednesday [10 May] to reveal His Majesty's wish that Jordanians should articulate and formulate a national charter that would embody a Jordanian code of conduct that is inspired by the Great Arab Revolt. After all the city of Al-Salt and its people were pioneers in adopting a code of conduct to govern their daily lives. Now is the time, His Majesty has told the Al-Salt delegation, to move on from the provincial dimension of charters to the national. What clearly propelled King Husayn to express such a wish is the recent resort to violence in some Jordanian cities and towns in order to convey a legitimate concern. And by calling on Jordanians to articulate such a national charter on the basis of the Great Arab Revolt, King Husayn is sending a clear message to Jordanians that they should give prominence to their sense of Arabism and Arab Nationalism in pursuing their local and national goals and to take such perspective with optimum seriousness. Likewise there is a clear signal that Jordanians should take the duties and rights of their citizenship as well as their national belonging with maximum respect and loyalty. National cohesion and harmony are matters that no one must be allowed to tamper with.

What remains now is to establish the machinery for the examination of this big mandate which His Majesty King Husayn has given his people. To be sure freedom of responsible press is a sine qua non for the elaboration of such a charter. Equally relevant and indispensable is the need to conduct national elections as soon as possible. Freedom of the press and national elections go together like inseparable twins. Thus all these complementary dimensions of one whole national exercise are so deeply and irrevocably interwoven that it would be difficult to talk of one without the other.

Yet the drafting of a national charter could be viewed as a starter of the whole process which the country is now setting into motion. In other words, the exercise of freedom of press and the conduct of national elections need a grand framework which prescribes the outer perimeters of the exercise of all these national endeavours and duties. The consideration of the charter objective is indeed a formidable task and its implementation is even more difficult. The first order of business, therefore, should be devoted to the very issue of how to

go about carrying out this Royal mandate and challenge expeditiously and rationally. Luckily, the general mood of the country is already much more relaxed than it has ever been for some time. This is a good start which requires further steps and measures with a view to fortifying the degree of confidence that has already been generated since the formation of the government of Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir. Jordanians have all the reasons not to be disappointed.

Columnist: Shamir Plan 'Does Not Address Us'

JN1605093589 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
16 May 89 p 18

["Every Day" column by Rakan al-Majali: "We Are Not Looking for a Role, and Shamir's Plan Does Not Address Us"]

[Text] The Shamir plan is endorsed by the Israeli Government which is mainly composed two major parties, Labor and Likud. The plan reflects many Zionist enemy aims and inclinations. First, it is an attempt to overcome the political impasse and change the international situation, which includes various initiatives toward peace in the region. Because Israel is anxious to avoid international pressure, it took this preemptive step to show the world that its approach is positive and that it is ready for peace.

Western public opinion, in particular, is known to be charmed by the term elections and by Israel's so-called democracy, although this democracy has a terrorist and racist dimension.

It is also certain that the Israeli plan aims to create the psychological atmosphere for taking practical steps to circumvent the popular intifadah [uprising] in the occupied Arab territories. It is important to note the similarity between the Shamir and Shultz plans, especially in seeking a solution one step at a time and adopting principles which distribute roles and are based on delusions, especially regarding Jordan, which rejects all deceptive and liquidationist attempts.

Jordan affirmed its principles when confronted with the Shultz plan. Moreover, it took its historic disengagement decision, which confused the Zionist enemy and made it realize that its only option is to talk to the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Jordan is not looking for a role, nor waiting for any party to give it a role—whether in the Shultz or the Shamir plans, the Camp David accords, or any other formula.

As King Husayn affirmed in Washington, Jordan's constant stand is the conviction that peace can only be achieved through an international conference for peace, in which all parties take part. King Husayn has also affirmed that election or any other proposals can only take place within the framework of a comprehensive solution. As for accepting or rejecting elections, this is for the Palestinian people and the PLO to decide.

Very briefly, this plan does not address us in Jordan. Israel should directly address the parties directly concerned in the cause. The PLO is the party with the right to accept or reject. All this accords with the Arab position and international opinion on a final settlement through an international conference, the sole path toward peace.

Jordan realizes that it will be attacked more then ever because of its adherence to the freedom of its decision-making and its constant pan-Arab and principled stands, as the Jordanian people are aware. All the crises and difficulties are related to Jordan's obstruction of various schemes. They are also related to Jordan's adherence to its national dignity and pan-Arab responsibilities in defense of the Arab nation. The Jordanian people under King Husayn have made continuous sacrifices. They are ready to defend their dignity and existence at any price. Ultimately, life is a matter of honor, not a calculation of profits and losses.

Mufti Khalid Killed in Beirut Car Bomb 16 May

JN1605112889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1050 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] It has just been reported that Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of the Republic of Lebanon, has been killed in a booby-trapped car explosion in Hayy 'A'ishat Bakkar in West Beirut. The explosion rocked the Hayy and resulted in the death of 12 persons and the destruction of a 3-story building located in front of the Hayy mosque, in the area where acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss resides. Ambulances immediately rushed to the scene.

Car Bomb Kills Mufti, Others

NC1605104989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] A massive explosion took place at 1305 today in Hayy 'A'ishat Bakkar [in West Beirut]. The explosion, which was caused by a booby-trapped car, took place as the motorcade of his eminence the mufti of the republic [Hasan Khalid] was passing and left scores of casualties and material damage.

[At 1045 GMT on 16 May, (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon adds, "to add to earlier reports, it has been learned that Mufti of the Republic Shaykh Hasan Khalid was martyred in a horrific explosion targeted at his motorcade in the Hayy 'A'ishat Bakkar area this afternoon."]

[At 1052 GMT Paris AFP in English, in a Beirut-datelined item, says, "The Sunni religious leader of Lebanon and at least 11 other people were killed Tuesday in a car-bomb attack outside a West Beirut mosque where one of the country's two rival prime ministers lives, medical sources said."]

17 Said Killed, 'Scores' Hurt

NC1605113589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1050 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] We have just learned that His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the republic, was assassinated by the treacherous hands which extended to the most prominent spiritual leader in Lebanon. The ugly assassination took place at 1303 today when the motorcade of his eminence the mufti of the republic was leaving his office. When the motorcade arrived at the TV Channel 7 road near the Qunay'u building escorted by an internal security forces car, a car rigged with a large quantity of explosives exploded, killing his eminence the mufti, his driver, and his aide. It has been reported that an unidentified personality was in the car with his eminence. Internal security force personnel were also killed in the blast.

According to preliminary reports, 17 people were killed and scores of others wounded. The Qunay'u building collapsed, and a nearby building was damaged.

Prime Minister Denounces 'Crime'

NC1605125789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 May 89

[Excerpts] The man who spoke the word of truth has been martyred. The highest Islamic spiritual leader has been martyred. The hand of treason extended again today to reach His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the republic, because his stands were always honest and patriotic. [passage omitted]

It has been learned that the mufti's car and those of his bodyguard were completely destroyed, killing members of the bodyguard provided by the internal security forces whose cars preceded the mufti of the republic's motorcade. Members of the mufti's bodyguard who were killed by the explosion include 'Uthman Najjar, Ziyad Yasin, Walid Abu 'Urm, As'ad 'Akkum, and Shafiq Mir'ashli.

Military experts estimated the weight of the explosive device at 150 kgs of TNT. According to preliminary reports, the device was detonated by remote control, and it created a hole more than 1.5 meters deep. The rescue and rubble removal operations are continuing amidst a state of astonishment in the entire area.

Political delegations, prominent people, and key figures, most prominently Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, went to the mufti's office to denounce the horrendous crime.

The nationalist parties and forces have issued a statement denouncing the assassination of His Eminence Mufti Hasan Khalid. The statement says: The conspiracy has again entered one of its most tragic chapters. The treacherous hand has extended to assassinate one of the symbols of national and Islamic unity, His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the republic.

Shocked by this tragic incident which has struck the Lebanese deep in their consciences, the nationalist parties and forces denounce this treacherous crime which has added a new tragedy to their suffering. They believe that this treacherous and cowardly act cannot change their conviction that it is necessary to unite all efforts in order to extricate Lebanon from the bloody tragedy to which it has again been driven by the recent explosion plot of the criminal 'Awn clique. They pledge to the patriotic forces and the Lebanese in general to continue their procession leading to unity, liberation, and reform regardless of how hard the criminals will try to abort their unionist march.

7-Day Mourning Declared

NC1605141189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 May 89

[Statement issued by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss on 16 May—read by announcer]

[Text] A 7-day period of official mourning is declared on the death of departed leader of Lebanon, His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of the Lebanese Republic.

Flags will fly at half mast on all government buildings. The normal programs of the radio and television stations will be modified in a way appropriate to the occasion.

Al-Huss Mourns Mufti

NC1605134989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 May 89

[Statement issued by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss on 16 May announcing the death of Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the republic—read by announcer]

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and the Lebanese Government announce to the Lebanese people and all Muslims the death of His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the republic, who was martyred by the act of a treacherous, criminal, and sinful hand which has been harboring evil for this country for 15 years. This hand reached his eminence, who has been transferred into the presence of his Lord, while leaving his place of work.

By assassinating his eminence the mufti, the criminal hand has killed knowledge, ethics, and nationalist principles, because his eminence was an authority to us, the Muslims, and all Lebanese on Lebanon's journey of patience and pains. He was a wise and great guide in surmounting the difficult stages in our history and an advocate of accord, love, and national unity. He rejected violence and hatred and he was a messenger of love and peace.

O Lebanese, this misfortune is great. It has hit us as a people and government, and has again placed before us the reality of the plot and its aims and dimensions. It is directed against the Lebanese people with all their communities by being directed against their leaders and men. Under these difficult conditions, let us realize and understand this plot's dimensions and reality and save Lebanon. May God have mercy on our great martyr and may God preserve Lebanon.

INA Reports Incident

JN1605134589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 16 May 89

[Excerpts] Nicosia, 16 May (INA)—Lebanon's Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid was killed today in an explosion of a booby-trapped car. The explosion killed more than 17 people and injured 35 others.

Sources at the mufti's office told INA that Mufti Hasan Khalid has received a series of threats over the past few days after repeatedly apologizing for not accepting an invitation to visit Damascus. [passage omitted]

The sources stressed that the mufti has repeatedly rejected a demand by the Syrian regime's intelligence services to make statements against Lebanese and Arab figures or in support of Syria.

It is known that a few months ago, Syrian intelligence in Lebanon arrested another Islamic figure—the mufti of the mountain, Shaykh Muhammad 'Ali—for his refusal to support the Syrian regime's ends.

Michel 'Awn on Iraq's Position, Syria, Summit

JN1605131989 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Beirut, 16 May (INA)—Lebanese Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has expressed high appreciation for Iraq's position on the Lebanese crisis and said that Iraq is a pioneer in his efforts to solve this crisis.

This came in a statement to INA correspondent in Beirut today.

He said that Iraq's and President Saddam Husayn's observance of the Arab League Charter and their balanced and responsible pan-Arab stand make up for the lack of common Arab responsibility toward this major pan-Arab issue—the Lebanese crisis.

He said that Iraq's pan-Arab approach to the Lebanese question and its support for the unity of Lebanon kept the problem within its local and Arab framework.

General 'Awn spoke about Syrian troops's shelling of Lebanese areas and said that the Syrian regime is at the end of its life. It has exhausted itself in all fields, he said.

He explained that the domestic crimes of the Syrian regime are countless. This regime has sunk in the blood of the Palestinians and Lebanese in Lebanon, he said. He added that the Syrian regime conceded the Golan, slew the Palestinian resistance, but failed to meet the remainder of its obligations toward its masters.

He said that the Syrian regime is the master of world terrorism and its innocent victims in the air and the sea are too numerous to be counted.

General 'Awn said that the Arab summit in Morocco next week has a historic opportunity to prove to itself and the world that it can protect its charter.

The two basic items in this charter, he explained, prevent any Arab country from intervening militarily in another Arab country or interfering in the affairs of another Arab country to change its ruling regime.

He said the Arab summit is called upon to prevent Syria from keeping its forces in Lebanon, interfering in Lebanese affairs, and using its military force to bombard civilians and civil and official institutions brutally.

General 'Awn stressed the need for the coming Arab summit to adopt a resolution calling for the withdrawal of all foreign forces—including the Israeli, Syrian, and Iranian forces—from Lebanon.

Syrian Troops 'May' Enter PSP Territory

JN1305180089 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 12 May 89 p 18

[Text] Beirut—Well informed sources in Beirut have revealed to AL-QABAS that the Syrian troops in Lebanon may be given the order to enter the Iqlim al-Kharrub area, which is currently under the control of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP].

The sources attribute this Syrian step, if implemented, to what is described as "Palestinian expansion in Iqlim al-Kharrub"—this at a time when the Syrians are facing intransigent acts by the head of the military government in the eastern areas.

The Syrians—together with their ally, PSP leader Walid Junblatt—fear any military advance toward Iqlim al-Kharrub that may be made by certain Palestinian factions and the effects of such a move on the general military and political situation in Lebanon.

These sources concluded that Junblatt has taken all the necessary precautions to prevent this. Should it become apparent that he is unable to confront any possible attack, he will resort to the Syrians, who do not hide their caution toward such a thing due to the sensitive military situation in that region, which is close to the Jazzin area, where units of the South Lebanese Army are present.

Hizballah Reportedly Infiltrates Amal

NC1505190789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Citing security sources in the Amal Movement, the BEIRUT NEWS AGENCY has disclosed that Hizballah is reinforcing its military positions in southern Lebanon, specifically in Iqlim al-Tuffah, in preparation for a decisive battle with the Amal Movement. These sources noted that a large number of Hizballah members have joined Amal's security apparatus and have been smuggling arms to Hizballah. The Hizballah men joined the Amal Movement's security service to cover up the smuggling operations.

The Amal Movement has taken extraordinary measures to keep tabs on these personnel after expelling some of them. The sources said that reciprocal alerts occurred yesterday evening in the southern suburb between Amal and Hizballah. Hizballah blocked the Al-Maramil-Burj al-Barajinah road as a precautionary measure to prevent the delivery of arms and ammunition to the Amal Movement.

Fadlallah Denies Iranian Guards in Lebanon

LD1505164989 Tehran IRNA in English 1425 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Beirut, May IRNA—Lebanese Al-'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadhlallah has said there were no Iranian Islamic Revolution's Guards in Lebanon in recent months. "This rumor is part of the strategy of the Baghdad-Cairo axis in Lebanon to justify their collaboration with the Maronite faction," he said in an interview published Monday.

Fadhallah told the weekly AL-DYAR that reports claiming the presence of Iranian forces in Lebanon had been circulated in relation to the struggle between Syria and Iraq in Lebanon.

The rumormongers wanted to justify Iraq's support for the illegal regime of General Michel 'Awn, he said.

Fadhlallah said the Baghdad-Cairo axis was doing all within its power to undermine the position of Lebanese Muslims and dismantle all obstacles in the way of the Zionist regime.

Radio Reports Syrians Shelling Jubayl Coast

NC1605054289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] The Syrians have continued their acts of aggression against the eastern areas. They bombarded the Jubayl coast with more than 40 shells for 2 hours from 0230 to 0430 today from their positions in 'Ayn al-Muraysah. The shelling of the Jubayl coast resumed between 0400 and 0600, with 14 artillery shells falling on the coast.

Syrian attacks on Lebanese Army posts resumed last night. At 2230 yesterday, two shells from West Beirut fell on the old market area. The Al-Hadath area also was subjected to Syrian bombardment from antiaircraft and light caliber weapons.

3 PSP Fighters Reported Killed by SLA

NC1505170189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] The Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] has announced that three of its fighters were killed and seven others wounded when the South Lebanese Army [SLA] shelled Mimis village near the border strip.

In another development, Ni'mah Haydar, the Amal movement's military official in the Al-Nabatiyah area, was seriously injured, along with his personal bodyguard, when an explosive charge went off near his car as it was going down a road near Al-Nabatiyah.

Army Positions in Suq al-Gharb Under Fire

NC1505185889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Lebanese Army positions in Suq al-Gharb have been coming under attack by machinegun fire from Syrian and Junblatt's positions since 2125 today.

Anti-Aircraft Fire Directed at Israeli Warplanes
NC1605141389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1405 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier while flying sorties in Lebanese skies at 1620. The Israeli aircraft are continuing their flights and encountering ground anti-aircraft fire.

Beirut Airport Said No Longer Fit For Traffic
NC1605101789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] The Beirut International Airport Authority has notified all airlines operating in Lebanon that the airport is no longer fit for use due to the damage inflicted on its runways, buildings, and air navigation safety equipment.

Therefore, the airport is considered closed.

GDR Closes Beirut Embassy 'Temporarily'
NC1605092689 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0830 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] The charge d'affaires at the GDR Embassy in Beirut has told Ambassador 'Asim Jabir, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, that his government has decided to close the embassy temporarily because of the current security situation and in view of the grave material damage inflicted on the embassy.

Al-Shar' Receives Iranian Group, Velayati Note

JN1505121689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received an Iranian delegation under Dr Seyfollah Vahid-Dastjerdi. The delegation comprised Qasem Moheb 'Ali Khan, director general of the Middle East and North Africa Affairs Directorate; Mahmud Hashemi-Bahramani-Rafsanjani, director of the 3d Political Office in the Iranian Foreign Ministry, and (Ahmed Nur Bala), Iranian assistant health minister.

The meeting was attended by the director of the Asia Directorate in the Foreign Ministry and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus.

The Iranian delegation conveyed to the foreign minister a message from Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The message deals with relations between Syria and Iran, means to bolster them in various fields, and the Iranian leadership's assessment of the course of the Iraq-Iran negotiations and of the general current situation in the region.

Al-Asad Invited To Iran

JN1505180789 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] It has been learned from an official Syrian source that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has sent a message to his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' dealing with a proposed visit to Iran by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Observers indicate that this is the first time an official Syrian source talked about a possible visit to Iran by President al-Asad.

The official Syrian source said Faruq al-Shar' received this message today from an Iranian delegation, which arrived in Syria yesterday on a brief visit. It was conveyed at a meeting during which ways to bolster bilateral relations in all spheres, the regional situation, and the Iranian leaders' concept of the Iran-Iraq talks, were discussed.

Iran Offers Aid To Lebanon Victims

LD1505161689 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Damascus, May 15, IRNA—Iran is fully prepared to help the casualties of the recent clashes in Lebanon, and to cure the wounded people.

Visiting head of the Islamic Republic Red Crescent Dr Seyfollah Vahid-Dastjerdi announced Iran's readiness in talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' here Monday.

He also thanked Syria for its cooperation for sending Iranian relief aid to Lebanon.

Iran and Syria with complete mutual understanding have common outlooks vis-a-vis Middle East developments including the Palestine issue, Al-Shar' said.

Meanwhile, Vahid-Dastjerdi told IRNA after the meting that Iran was also ready to transfer some Lebanese casualties to Iranian hospitals in view of the wide scale of the Lebanese fighting.

"Three hospitals in Tehran have been allocated in this respect," he said, adding that two shipments of Iranian aid weighing 140 tons would be sent to Lebanon via Syria early next week.

Al-Asad Receives Al-Qadhdhafi Telephone Call

JN1305202589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday evening received a telephone call from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution in Libya, during which they discussed issues of common interest.

JANA Notes Conversation

LD1305090489 Tripoli JANA in English 0808 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] Tripoli, al-Ma' 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—A telephone conversation took place between the leader of the revolution and President Hafiz al-Asad.

Al-Asad Confers With Jordan's King Husayn

JN1505185389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call before noon today from His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan in which they talked about current Arab developments and bilateral relations.

TISHRIN Rejects Shamir Elections Plan

JN1605102889 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0924 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Damascus, 16 May (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN affirms that Shamir's plan to hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza, which was approved by the enemy's cabinet, stems from the principles of opposing the establishment of a Palestinian state and avoiding any change in the status of the occupied Arab territories.

In a comment today under the headline "Shamir's Plan Is a Maneuver To Continue the Occupation," the paper says: As expected, the substance of the plan is to gain autonomy for the Palestinians under Israeli occupation. The plan does not refer to occupied Jerusalem and its inhabitants.

The paper explains that the Israeli enemy wants the Palestinians to stop the intifadah [uprising] and to relinquish their national rights. It also wants the Palestinians outside the occupied territories to give up their right to return to their homeland.

TISHRIN says: This plan is completely rejected because it is contrary to the most fundamental hopes and aspirations of the Palestinian people and also to the UN resolutions. In its moves, however, Israel counts on Western pressure to persuade the Palestinians to agree to the proposed elections under the pretext of showing more moderation in order to win world public opinion.

The paper adds: World public opinion supports Palestinian struggle because of the intifadah and the Palestinian people's sacrifices, not because of the involvement of certain persons in capitulatory solutions.

TISHRIN concludes: Advancing the intifadah and backing it by every means is the only way to regain the land and the rights.

Arab League's Klibi Arrives in Damascus 15 May
JN1605071589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived in Damascus last night on a visit to Syria. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Faruq al-Shar', minister of foreign affairs; the directors of the Arab homeland and protocol departments at the Foreign Ministry; 'Adnan 'Umran, Arab League assistant secretary general; Zuhayr 'Aqil, commissioner general of the Israeli boycott offices in Damascus.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Klibi said: Due to the importance of Syria's pan-Arab role, I was eager to make this visit on the eve of holding the emergency Arab summit to hold consultations with the brothers in Damascus headed by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. I am certain that the Syrian leadership's stands toward our fateful issues will greatly contribute to reinforcing confidence in joint Arab action, which is one of the most important objectives of the coming Casablanca summit.

Klibi added: I will seize the opportunity of my talks in Syria to resume consultations on the Arab League's efforts to help Lebanon overcome its constitutional crisis and to reform its regime so that Lebanon can restore its unity and sovereignty.

Concluding, Klibi said: I express my gratitude to the Syrian Government for the facilities given to the Arab League delegation. I am sure that this cooperation will enable the six-man Arab committee to surmount many obstacles facing its efforts to achieve national accord in Lebanon with the aim of saving this fraternal country from its difficult ordeal.

Public, Mixed Sector Employees Receive Pay Raises
JN1305191289 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 May 89

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad today issued a host of legislative decrees designed to improve the living conditions and incomes of employees hired by the ministries, public departments and institutions, public sector corporations and installations, municipalities, local administration and popular action units, confiscated firms and installations, all other firms and businesses belonging to the public sector, and mixed sector firms that are named by a decision from the prime minister.

These decrees provide for effecting a 25-percent increase of the monthly base pay or monthly base wages, for lifting the ceiling of pensions to 2,500 Syrian pounds, for effecting a 15-percent increase in the pensions of military and civilian personnel, and also for increasing the heating allowance to 190 Syrian pounds per month. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Najibullah Discusses Pakistani Intervention

LD1505201589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 May 89

[Interview with President Najibullah by unidentified correspondent from the BBC Pashto section; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Passage indistinct] [Correspondent] Dr Najibullah, you say all the time that Pakistani troops and militia are fighting in the Jalalabad region, what proof do you have of this?

[Najibullah] You know that we recently captured two officers of the ISI [Interservices Intelligence], Pakistan's military intelligence. They were captured in Qandahar and confessed that Pakistan has directly carried out operations with its regular units in Jalalabad and Qandahar. The statements were broadcast on radio and television, and you surely heard them. However, I ask that if tanks from Pakistani territory are not being used against our fronts, then where do these tanks come from? Weapons, including heavy-artillery shells—averaging 3,000 to 5,000 a day—have been fired on Jalalabad. I believe these are because of direct assistance from Pakistan; such an amount of weapons had not been stored in Afghan territory. If these supplies are not being made by their units, who sends them and from where do they come? At this moment, you yourself could, through your channels, find out how many of their Pakistani officers have gone out to the battle fronts in Jalalabad. You will find out for yourselves. Now the world can very precisely pinpoint all matters through science, with satellites and other means. The concentration of their forces in our country and their aggression has been seen. We have this proof.

[Correspondent] Dr Najibullah, according to our information, up to 50 Ilyushin jets bring weapons to Kabul every day, and there are also Scud missiles that only the Soviets can give you.

[Najibullah] Undoubtedly because of the people's need for foodstuff and fuel, these are now being supplied to us by the Soviet Union. On the basis of our mutual treaties and in accordance with the acceptance of positive symmetry, which was approved in the course of the Geneva accords, we have the right to ask for this assistance. If assistance is made to the opposition side too, they can do that; however, the most important thing is that it is written in the first document of the Geneva accords that such assistance should not be given to them from Pakistani soil. The main thing is in this point.

[Correspondent] Today, 3 months have passed since the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, but the war has intensified. The Soviet forces, after a period of 9 years found that they did not want to continue the war and left Afghanistan. How long will you continue the war?

[Najibullah] Our policy is not to continue the war. Our policy is to maintain peace, and therefore we have announced the policy of national reconciliation, in which all forces who benefit from maintaining peace should come together, announce a cease-fire, form a joint council, form a coalition government, engage in drafting a Constitution, and, based on that, go to elections. In this regard, we have raised international proposals asking for the convocation of an international conference to make Afghanistan a permanently neutral country, and we have asked for the demilitarization of Afghanistan as well. In this way, if we talk of the continuation of war, our slogans do not support war; war is being imposed on us. Our slogan is the solution of the question through peace and politics. If it is the path of the continuation of war, it is then the choice of the opposition that has been forced on us. We are left with resistance, and, naturally, resistance is our right, and we should defend rights, which is what we are doing.

[Correspondent] Dr Najibullah. The mujahidin commanders and their leaders all say that while you personally serve as head of government they do not want to talk with the Kabul Government.

[Najibullah] I think the rejection of individuals and forces does not solve the problem. This phase is so full of responsibility and is so historic that all forces—this side or the other side—should come together for the prosperity of the people, for ensuring peace for them, solving problems jointly and together, especially as Afghanistan has its own traditions, culture, costumes, and jirgahs. We should halt these quarrels, and the forces that claim to serve the people of Afghanistan should come together wisely and solve problems for the benefit of the people of Afghanistan, whose most important desire is for peace.

[Correspondent] A great problem with your government and party in Kabul and the parties in Pakistan is their ideologic differences. How can these differences be reduced, and can they be resolved?

[Najibullah] I think this is propaganda to cover Pakistan's aggression. We have repeatedly declared that Afghanistan is an Islamic country. Here in Afghanistan all national, democratic, patriotic forces, heads of tribes, and clergy should come together and take part. Internal commanders, the opposition, representatives of refugees, intellectuals in the West, the supporters of Muhammad Zahir Shah—all of them can jointly form a coalition government. I think that, if such a government comes into existance, this not only makes ideological questions void but also makes them without substance. This pretext is used by those who are impelled by aliens to

aggression. If there is a question of ideology, I ask you why they do not go to Israel, where Palestinians are engaged; the Arab mercenaries who come here and fight on our fronts should fight for the ideological war there as well. Socialism and communism have been declared in many countries. Why do these mercenaries not resort to using their sword in ideological war or holy war there? We have declared that Afghanistan is an Islamic, independent, free, nonaligned, and neutral country. I think these pretexts are now fully exposed. They cannot hide their real faces and intentions on this basis.

[Correspondent] The mujahidin say that their real reason for resistance is that they fight on an ideological basis. Your foreign minister said some time ago in New York that he did not want Afghanistan to be a communist or a socialist country, but wanted it to be a neutral country. Therefore, will you also insist on Afghanistan moving toward communism and socialism and on Afghanistan forming a government with the consultation of the people of Afghanistan? Is this correct?

[Najibullah] There are unique conditions in Afghanistan. There are still tribal situations here. For the elimination of tribal conditions and so much backwardness, methods that conform with the uniqueness and reality of Afghanistan should be considered; not those models that are sometimes offered for us to copy and not the models offered by the East. Afghanistan has its own culture, history, and national traditions. On this basis and in line with the circumstances in Afghanistan—that is, that it is to be in conformity with these circumstances—we can introduce socioeconomic and political formulas.

[Correspondent] Your opponents say that yours and your party's background is such that so long as you are on the scene the chances for peace are poor.

[Najibullah] This is the extremism we have repeatedly mentioned. The other side should at least use sense and clarify its responsibility before the people of Afghanistan. If it is an accusation, then accusations can be showered on anyone. We claim that we are a political power. We serve the people of Afghanistan; therefore, we should take steps on that level to resolve the problems of Afghanistan, where its people daily face a bloodbath. Their children die.

There is a hot fire. The people are burning in this oven. What type of responsibility do they feel before them? I think they claim that they will achieve political leadership in Afghanistan. It is necessary for these leaders to hear the crying and wailing of Afghanistan's people, of the mothers, sisters, children, and orphans and feel their responsibility and take a historic step.

[Correspondent] Dr Najibullah, they will say that your government, with a Central Committee and Politburo and the structure of your party, have a fully communistic form like the Soviet Union. What will you say to this?

[Najibullah] As I have said to you before, there are many countries in the world that have declared socialism and even communism, but the extremists have not decared a holy war against them. In Pakistan itself, there are may progressive forces, with whom they [word indistinct] days and night. If the issue of holy war were discussed based on such idealogy, then they should begin it where people exist. [sentence as heard] There are many socialist countries in Eastern Europe; why don't they carry out a holy war against them? In Arab countries, even in Libya, which says that its regime follows, in a way and in a form, the socialist path, why don't they declare holy war against them?

I think this is only a pretext. There is only one plan under discussion behind Pakistan's aggression against the territory of Afghanistan, against our free territory. Behind this there are international patrons: Americans and Saudi Wahhabis. They resort to such pretexts and make excuses to conceal this aggression.

[Correspondent] Dr Najibullah, I want to ask you another question now. You have said several times so far that you had talks and signed protocols with Afghanistan's mujahidin. My question is, do you realize that if you do not reveal their names, there is a possibility that people will not believe you?

[Najibullah] Despite the fact that a number of leaders of their formations recently became worried and want to deny these so-called allegations and say they have not negotiated with the State of Afghanistan, I will tell you that we had talks with all the groups. We have proof of this. However, based on our Pashtun characteristics, we cannot reveal the names. They themselves requested that we not reveal the negotiations and their names. We leave the judgment to them. Time will show you very soon who conducted talks with us and who we reached some results with and who we did not.

[Correspondent] Dr Najibullah, thank you very much for this interview. We are running out of time, therefore good bye to you.

[Najibullah] Thank you. Good bye.

Najibullah Issues Election Commission Decree

LD1505175789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] The Presidential Office reports that a decree by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, has been issued on the formation of election commissions for representatives of the Loya Jirgah.

The presidential decree on the formation of a Central Commission and election commissions for the provinces and their equivalent administrative units in order to elect representatives for the Loya Jirgah of the Republic of Afghanistan reads:

In accordance with the instructions of Paragraph 2, Article 66 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, and of paragraph one, Article 14 of the Election Law for the Loya Jirgah, election commissions should be formed as follows for the center, provinces, and their equivalant administrative units in order to elect representatives to the Loya Jirgah:

1. The Central Election Commission should be formed with the following structure:

Vice president and chairman of the National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan, esteemed 'Abdul Rahim Hatif, as chairman.

Chief justice of the Republic of Afghanistan, esteemed Nezamuddin Tahzib, as deputy.

Deputy prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, esteemed Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin, as member.

Secretary to the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee and representative to the house of representatives, esteemed Karwal, as member.

Secretary to the PDPA Central Committee and representative to the House of Representatives, esteemed Najmuddin Kawiani, as member.

First secretary to the Toiler Revolutionary Organization of Afghanistan [TROA], esteemed Mahbubullah Koshani, as member.

Attorney general of the Republic of Afghanistan, esteemed Sharafuddin Sharaf, as member.

Chairman of the Council of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, esteemed Waheb Safi, as member.

Justice minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, esteemed Bashir Baghlani, as member.

First secretary to the Toiler Organization of Afghanistan [TOA], Hamdullah Gran, as member.

Deputy to the Islamic Party of Afghanistan, esteemed Mawlawi Nasrullah, as member.

Chairman of Solidarity Movement of Afghanistan's People, esteemed Sarsaw Lemach, as member.

Chairman of Etahdaya Ansarrullah, esteemed Safar Muhammad Khadam, as member.

Chairman of the Peasant Justice Party of Afghanistan, esteemed 'Abdul Hakim Tawan, as member.

Minister of Islamic Affairs and Endowment, esteemed 'Abdul Ghafur Bahar, as member.

Chairperson of the National Council of Afghanistan's Women, esteemed Masuma Esmati, as member.

Chairman of the Afghanistan Lawyers Society, esteemed Ghulam Sakhi Masun, as member.

Chairman of the Council of Affairs of the Presidency, esteemed Ahmad Nabi, as secretary.

2. The election commissions for the provinces and their equivalent administrative units should be formed with the following structures:

The governor of a province as chairman.

The head of the high court of a province as member.

The prosecutor of a province as member.

The head of the Islamic Affairs Department of a province as member.

The head of the Provincial Council of the National Front as member.

The head of the Training and Education Department of a province as member.

The head of the Council of 'Ulema and Religious Affairs as member.

Mujahidin Capture Posts, Base in Khowst

BK1605024689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that the mujahidin attacked the Khowst-II military cantonment and captured six security posts and one military base of the Kabul regime. They captured 25 soldiers of the Kabul regime, along with 4 tanks and 86 military vehicles. The mujahidin have also captured a town north of Herat after heavy fighting against the Kabul regime forces. The mujahidin have continued their operations around Jalalabad and captured two arms depots at (Shaykh Masari) in the west of the city.

Extremist Groups Continue Military Operations

LD1505165189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] An authoritive armed forces source reported to BAKHTAR's military section that despite the extensive but vain efforts of armed extremist groups, supported by Pakistan and Saudi Wahhabis, the hero units and companies of the armed forces stationed in Nangarhar Province yesterday carried out mopping-up and search operations north of Jalalabad, as a result of which the enemy forces were pushed back, and several mortars and guns, and also 10 surface-to-surface missiles were seized by the armed forces.

The source adds that yesterday the armed extremists, with the support of heavy weapons fire by the 11th and 18th Pakistan divisions, fired on residential areas and security posts around Jalalabad and on the airport, as a result of which three civilians were martyred, one injured, and six houses were destroyed.

The armed forces source added that as a result of artillery and air strikes, 47 extremists were killed and another 30 injured. Among those killed are three ringleaders, two Pakistani militias, and two Saudi Wahhabi mercenaries. A BM-12 system, two guns, three mortars, two vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition, 25 various types of infantry weapons, and several strongholds of the enemy were destroyed.

The source added that the extremist groups carried out combat operations in some regions of Khowst Major District. The artillery and air forces of our brave and hero armed forces dealt them crushing blows. As a result, 470 extremists were killed and another 71 were injured. Their seven rocket projectile systems and a depot of arms and ammunition were destroyed.

According to another report, retaliatory attacks carried out on the armed extremists resulted in two of them being killed and nine others injured. Two [name indistinct] rocket launchers, a recoilless gun, and a DShK were destroyed.

As a result of mopping-up operations carried out by the armed forces in some regions of old Baghlan city, Baghlan Province, two ringleaders of the armed extremists were killed, including Sahib Khan and Qasim; four others were arrested. In the course of these operations, a recoilless gun, a mortar, a DShK, two heavy machineguns, and a communication system were seized from the enemy.

The situation is generally normal in other provinces and regions of the country.

Clashes Among 'Extremist Groups' in Farah Noted

LD1405195589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] Heavy clashes have taken place recently between the armed extremist groups in some parts of Joveyn District, Farah Province.

The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section reports that as a result of these clashes, which come from the internal disagreement among the extremist groups, seven persons from the hostile side were killed and three others were badly injured.

Explosives Seized in Bagrami District

LD1405211889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] The personnel of the Interior Ministries department of the campaign against crime today discovered and seized some explosives, arms, and ammunition in some parts of the District of Bagrami.

BAKHTAR's military section reports that this ammunition includes 29 shells for rocket launchers, 20,000 heavy machinegun shells, 24 anti-personnel mines and handgrenades, and 2,500 grams of (turtil) explosive, which was hidden in some parts of Bagrami District by the extremist groups supported by Pakistan in order to kill our Muslim people and to cause fear.

Violation Notices Submitted to UN Mission

Notices 477-480

LD1205055189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Kabul, May 11, BAKHTAR—Notices Number 477th, 478th, 479th and 480th of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan on violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva accords were handed over to the office of the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here today.

Precise information on 35 instances of Pakistani violations of the provisions of the Geneva accords are given to the mission.

The notices ask the UNGOMAP to assess the said violations and convey results of its findings to the sides concerned immediately.

Notices 481-483

LD1305072689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] Kabul, May 12, BAKHTAR—The flagrant violations of the Geneva accords by Pakistan were reported to the UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] through 481st, 482nd and 483rd notes of the foreign Ministry here today.

The 481st note of the Foreign Ministry gave precise information about the military training camp of Banow located 50km away from Miranshah in which the Afghan extremists are trained by Pakistani and American trainers. The note says that existence of the military training camps of the extremists in the territory of Pakistan is regarded as one of the most severe violations of the Geneva accords, especially paragraphs 11 and 12 of the second article of the first documents.

The 482nd note presented to the UNGOMAP a list of seven cases of clear Pakistani violations from the said accords. [sentence as received]

The Foreign Ministry of Afghanistan through its 483rd note draws once again attention of the UNGOMAP to the lethal weapons transferred into the territory of Afghanistan and handing over of the said weapons the armed opposition for carrying out subversive activities in the Republic of Afghanistan. The note gave exact information about the arms captured here on May 10 by the personnel of the security forces as well.

The notes demanded the UNGOMAP to assess the violations on the basis of paragraph seven, document four of the Geneva accords and inform the concerned sides of the results.

Notices 484-487

LD1405061989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] Kabul, May 13, BAKHTAR—Violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva accords were handed over through notices number 484th, 485th, 486th and 487th of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan to the Office of the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here today.

Information on 10 instances of undeniable violations by that country from article 2, document number 1 of the said accords are provided to the mission.

The notices ask the mission that as per paragraph 7, document number 4 of the Geneva accords assess the violations.

Since the signing of the Geneva accords 3933 instances of Pakistani violations from the Geneva accords were brought through 487 notices to the attention of the UNGOMAP.

Notices 488-490

LD1505073589 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] Kabul, May 14, BAKHTAR—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has handed over once again three notes 488 to 490, on Pakistan's violations to the United Nations good offices mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan, UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan], today.

The notes have stipulated 31 instances of Pakistan's violations on the provisions of the Geneva accords. The notes have asked the UNGOMAP office in Kabul to investigate the violations and convey the results to the Republic of Afghanistan and representatives of the UN secretary general.

Notices 491-494

LD1605085889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 May 89

[Excerpts] The Afghan Foreign Ministry this evening in Kabul handed over notes Nos 491-494 to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] on Pakistan's violation of the Geneva Accords.

Comprehensive information on 13 violations of article 2 of instrument 1 of the accords is contained in the notes. [passage omitted]

It is to be noted that during the past year UNGOMAP's attention has been drawn to 3,977 violations of the accords by Pakistan in 494 Afghan Foreign Ministry notes.

India

Afghanistan's Wakil Meets Indian Leaders

LD1405230389 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil arrived yesterday afternoon in New Delhi on his way to Harare for the nonaligned foreign ministers session. The foreign minister was received at Indira Gandhi airport by the joint secretary of the Foreign Ministry and a number of senior officers of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of India and Ambassador 'Abdul Samad Azhar and staff of the Afghan Embassy in New Delhi.

Later, the foreign minister met with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Conveying Afghan President Najibullah's regards to Rajiv Gandhi, 'Abdul Wakil furnished detailed information on recent developments in Afghanistan, particularly on the intensification of aggression by Pakistan's armed forces against Afghanistan, especially in the border provinces. The foreign minister expressed Afghanistan's serious concern about the consequences of these developments.

Rajiv Gandhi expressed satisfaction at the high level of relations between the two countries and said continued contacts between the leadership of Afghanistan and the leadership of India are necessary, as are the exchange of information and consultation about developments in the region, particularly since the completion of the withdrawal of Soviet troops. Gandhi expressed support for the efforts and initiatives of the Republic of Afghanistan to restore peace and defend the country's independence and national sovereignty.

According to another report, Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil met with his excellency, Indian Defense Minister K.C. Pant. The foreign minister talked about the political-military situation of the country, particularly since

the withdrawal of Soviet troops, and Pakistan's intensified direct intervention and aggression against Afghanistan in the border provinces, particularly in Jalalabad, and stressed the dangers coming from this aggression against peace and security in Afghanistan and the region.

Similarly, the foreign minister conducted talks with Natwar Singh, minister of state in the foreign ministry of India and exchanged views on the bilateral relations between the countries and the forthcoming session of the foreign ministers of the nonaligned movement.

The foreign minister emphasized that the Nonaligned Movement can play an effective role in the political resolution of the situation related to Afghanistan.

The foreign minister gave information on the sessions of the UN Security Council, which discussed for 3 weeks in the month of April the interference and aggression of Pakistan, and he expressed gratitude for India's constructive role.

The foreign minister took part in a news conference yesterday evening, which was held with the participation of a number of Indian and some other countries' journalists. Divulging the military intervention and aggression against the Republic of Afghanistan, Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil said at the press conference that he is confident that the development of the situation in Afghanistan and around it and the intensification of the military intervention and aggression of Pakistan in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan and the expansionist intentions of that country against the country of peace-loving Afghans has aroused the concern of the world and the friendly country of India, which can feel the dangerous consequences more acutely since it is part of our neighborhood.

Three months have elapsed since the withdrawal of the last Soviet soldier from the Republic of Afghanistan. During this period, Pakistani warmongers have intensified war and aggression against our national independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty with mad expansionist whims. They have involved their regular army and militia force alongside the armed extremist groups opposing the state of the Republic of Afghanistan in the fighting against Afghanistan, thereby causing such a dangerous situation that the consequences cannot be confined to the territory of Afghanistan.

The situation in the last few months, especially the heroic resistance of people, armed forces, and the warriors of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan in the defense of the city of Jalalabad and the repulsing of the joint aggression of Pakistan, Saudi Wahhabis, and their local servants, showed that, despite the short-sighted predictions of our enemies, the Republic of Afghanistan is alive and viable and self-sacrificingly defends against the enemies of its independence, freedom, and territorial integrity. Now it is not concealed from anyone, in contrast with the futile claims of our enemies who are vainly trying to show the war in Afghanistan as merely an internal problem and to dub it a civil war, that we are faced with the clear and obvious aggression of enemies from abroad in the form of the arrogant military circles of Pakistan.

Naturally our friends and neighbors cannot remain indifferent about this situation, which increasingly endangers peace and security in the region. We are well aware of the deep and correct concern of our friends and neighbors over the intensification of the aggression of Pakistan and Saudi Wahhabis against the Republic of Afghanistan. We clearly and resolutely assert that Pakistan should forget the futile intention of the occupation of the gallant Afghan's land. The heroic and independent resistance of our party, the armed forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, and the people of Afghanistan must have served as a lesson to the warmongering Pakistani generals who nurture the dream of the establishment of a great Pakistan through the installation of a subservient pro-Pakistani government in Afghanistan.

Our country's honorable history attests that Afghans have never knelt before aggressors. The Republic of Afghanistan has taken due steps, with complete observance of the Geneva agreements and preparation for negotiation and dialogue, for the political resolution of the problems. Now it is up to the Government of Pakistan to refrain sensibly and with foresight from interference and aggression against the Republic of Afghanistan, withdraw its troops and militia from the war against the Republic of Afghanistan, refrain from the dangerous expansion of fire, and help, with full observance of the Geneva agreements, with the political resolution of the Afghanistan problem and the problems surrounding it. Otherwise, all the grave consequences of this destructive war mounted by Pakistan against the Republic of Afghanistan that have seriously endangered peace and security in the region will rest with Pakistan.

Minister Departs for Harare Nonaligned Meeting

BK1405150389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, left New Delhi today for Harare to attend the coordinating bureau meeting of the foreign ministers of nonaligned countries. The 4-day meeting, beginning on Tuesday, will chalk out new strategies to make the movement more dynamic. Several foreign ministers have already reached the Zimbabwean capital.

Official Spokesman Welcomes Sino-Soviet Summit

BK1605033189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] India has welcomed the Sino-Soviet summit in Beijing. An official spokesman said India considers the event as an important one on its own, though it is essentially a bilateral matter.

Gandhi on Nepalese Issue, New Bill, Communalism

BK1505161689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 May 89

[Excerpts] Addressing the meeting of the Congress-I party in Parliament today, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that the panchayati raj [administration of local bodies] bill meets the aspirations of the people. Its object is to give political strength to the common people in the rural areas. [passage omitted]

Referring to the problem of communalism, Mr Gandhi charged the opposition with adopting double standards. He said when the matter is raised in the house, they denied that they support the Anandpur Sahib Resolution [Sikh demands for basic rights], but outside they are speaking a different language.

Referring to Nepal, he said the problem is not our creation. Our doors are open, and we are willing to talk and will like one agreement between Nepal and India. He emphasized that there is no economic blockade nor are goods being stopped from going into Nepal.

Gandhi Comments on Agni Missile Test Program

BK1605034489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] The prime minister has called for greater participation of women in every sector of the economy. Mr Rajiv Gandhi said women are to be taken along with men in the effort to strengthen the country. Addressing the concluding session of the national convention of Mahila [women] Congress-I in Bhubaneswar, Mr Gandhi said that 30-percent reservation for women in democratic bodies will bring a radical change in our body politic.

Speaking to newsmen after addressing the concluding session, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the Agni missile testing is a part of our research program, and our own defense projects have nothing to do with any other country. He said Baliapal in Orissa's Balasore District has been chosen for setting up a national test range, as it is the only suitable point available in the country.

Iran

Envoy to Netherlands Recalled Over Rushdie Book

LD1505144689 Tehran IRNA in English 1427 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA—Iran today has recalled its ambassador to Amsterdam because of the Dutch support of the blasphemous novel "The Satanic Verses", a Foreign Ministry spokesman announced Monday.

The spokesman said Iran last month warned the Dutch Foreign Ministry through its ambasador Jan Horak against its "unprincipled stances and negative function." The recent Dutch measure to recall its ambassador, "though a propaganda show, clearly revealed the anti-Islamic position of the Netherlands," the spokesman said.

Paper Assails Saudis Over Hajj, Islamic Issues

LD1505102589 Tehran IRNA in English 0944 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA—An Iranian daily has advised the Saudi rulers that it is not in their interest to repeat "past mistakes" and oppose Islamic rules and teachings.

Referring to the fact that not much time was left to make preparations for the Hajj rituals, the morning daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI noted in an editorial today that "Iranian authorities have shown their good will and put all their efforts to prepare the ground for pilgrimage of Iranians to Mecca this year but that no result has been achieved so far due to irresponsible attitudes of Saudi officials." Iranian pilgrims did not participate in Hajj rituals last year because Saudi officials refused to issue visas for all the 150,000 applicants.

In 1987, at least 400 pilgrims, mostly Iranians, were massacred when the Saudi police attacked worshippers while they were expressing "antipathy towards pagans" in a peaceful demonstration in Holy Mecca.

According to the daily, the Saudis are not able to take an integrated and solid stand vis-a-vis the issue due to family differences within the ruling clique.

Some friendly countries like Pakistan were mediating to solve the issue.

"The mediatory delegations increased their efforts and the question had been almost solved but the Saudis rejected all previous agreements and started everything anew," the paper said. "They took such an astonishing stand that mediatory countries realised that certain wings among the Saudi rulers insist on carrying out dictated policies and create obstacles on the way of attendance of Iranians in this year's Hajj ceremony," it added.

The paper stressed that "those who consider themselves as 'servants of the Harams' (the two holy shrines in Mecca and Medina) make utmost efforts to keep away Muslims from the secure and divine harams and give priority to the American goals. They are even prepared to trespass the divine rule only to please Washington."

"The Saudis may be proud of implementing the policies dictated by the U.S., but the Muslims consider it a shame to adhere to the enemies of God and his prophet."

"They should not forget that they disgraced themselves by the crime they committed at the secure Haram" (the massacre of pilgrims two years ago).

"Mecca is a gravity center for one billion Muslims. The Saudis should not insist on calling themselves the servants of the Harams as it contradicts their attitudes," JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI underlined.

"They should have in mind that they are losing all chances rapidly and to their detriment," it concluded.

Second Round of Talks With Soviet Delegation
LD1505180989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] The high ranking Iranian and Soviet delegations, led by our country's Economic and Financial Affairs Minister Iravani and USSR Minister of Railways Konarev, held their second round of talks in Tehran this evening.

Meanwhile, talks between the two countries' experts will continue in Tehran until Wednesday within the framework of the subcommittees of the Iran-USSR Permanent Commission for Economic Cooperatin in order to prepare a draft of the documents on the two countries' cooperation. The documents on cooperation between Iran and the Soviet Union are to be signed during Hashemi-Rafsanjani's upcoming trip to Moscow.

Soviet Railway Minister Meets With Aqazadeh
LD1505180489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Soviet Railway Minister Konarev, head of the Soviet-Iranian joint economic commission, who is visiting Iran at the head of a high-level economic delegation, met with our country's oil minister this afternoon.

During the meeting, the two sides assessed the expansion of ties and trade, economic, and technical relations and were pleased about the progress of the talks. The Soviet minister referred to the fact that Iran and the Soviet Union are important on the world level from the point of view of gas and oil reserves and technology, and called for greater cooperation in this field. He told our country's oil minister that his country is prepared to purchase 2-3 billion cubic meters of gas a year.

[Oil Minister] Aqazadeh stressed that gas plays a major role in investment and the expansion of economic relations between the two countries. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran, in addition to exporting gas to the Soviet Union, would like to use the transmit route through that country in order to export its gas to European countries as well.

It was decided during the meeting that with the provision of technical facilities, Iran's refined gas will be exported to the Soviet Union from next year and that the transit question will be carefully reviewed by the joint commission.

Daily Criticizes Syrian Policy on Lebanon, Egypt
LD1605074489 Tehran IRNA in English 0712 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA—An Iranian daily today said Syria and other progressive regional countries made a big mistake by accepting the Arab League as the final judge concerning the Lebanese problem.

The TEHRAN TIMES said "the U.S. is virtually now achieving objectives which it did not achieve through direct influence during the past few years. Washington is in effect after realising its goals with the help of its regional allies under the pretext of Arab nationalism."

The daily also criticised Syria's agreement to the return of Egypt as a member to the Arab League.

The daily quoted Jubran Khuriyah, spokesman for Syrian president's office as saying on Saturday night [13 May] "Egypt's return to the league is natural and inevitable." He also considered Egyptian President Husni Mubarak not responsible for Anwar al-Sadat's policies and the Camp David agreement.

However, latest reports indicated that Mubarak congratulated Tel Aviv leaders on the 41st anniversary of the establishment of the Israeli regime in occupied lands, the English daily reminded.

The daily compared "Syria's open retreat from its past stance on the issue" when it led Arab opposition to the Cairo regime and supported the Arab League's boycott of Egypt due to its signing of the Camp David peace treaty.

Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who repeatedly threatened to boycott the Arab League if Egypt returned to the Arab fold, unexpectedly travelled to Morocco last week to talk with King Hassan. The talks were reportedly connected with the efforts of the conservative wing of the Arab League to look for grounds for the return of Egypt to the body, the daily pointed out.

TEHRAN TIMES said a summit meeting to be held in Casablanca late in May would discuss around two main issues, i.e. the Lebanese problem and the Palestinian issue.

"It may be inferred that Syria is trying to gain an important and necessary concession in the Lebanese adventure by yielding another, relatively less important one to the conservative Arab faction."

Syria would try to pressure other countries to push Iraq and Egypt to stop their support of the Michel 'Awn government in Lebanon which did not seem easy to accomplish, because most Arab League members are opposed to the Syrian presence in Lebanon, it said.

Editorial on 'Campaign' Against Majlis Speaker
NC1505115889 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 May 89 p2

[Editorial in the "Opinion" column: "Black Propaganda at Work on Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Remarks"]

[Text] Terrorism is the name of the game, and the West backed fully by its subtly controlled media has once more latched on to remarks made by Iranian Majlis Speaker and Acting Commander of the Armed Forces Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, to play it hard.

An orchestrated and well-calculated and timed propaganda campaign has been started against the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has in the past on several occasions and repeatedly from time to time disavowed and even condemned terrorism, or anything which comes close to it.

Why the hullabaloo now?

Let it be noted, and well marked, that Rafsanjani's remarks were made in the context of the ongoing Palestinian uprising which the Islamic Republic fully sympathizes with the backs to the hilt.

Anyone who heard or read his remarks to the effect that the best and only way to retaliate against those who covertly, if not overtly, want to see this divine and humanitarian uprising suppressed, is to get back on those responsible; not to terrorise, but defend and strategically strike back at the perpetrators of terrorism.

What the Islamic Republic calls defense of vilated rights of Palestinians is something practical, not merely limited to words and issuance of statements.

Historians and observers agree that this occupation could not have lasted so long except with the unlimited support of Western powers. Is it correct to adopt a political struggle merely against the occupiers and their supporters, something which is not considered as any real threat to the occupiers? Is it not political stupidity to continue on this path only. Does the adoption of politico-military struggle not mean adoption of policy of terrorism? If struggle against occupiers and liberation of one's own homeland is interpreted to mean terrorism in the political terminology of some Western circles, then George Washington and Gen. Charles de Gaulle were the biggest terrorists, because both took up arms for the liberation of their homeland.

Unfortunately it is a habit in the world of today to misinterpret speeches of a speaker, in the mass media. And these speeches are also misinterpreted or badly translated. For certain, an official of the Islamic Republic cannot defend terrorism, because the Islamic Republic system has itself been the biggest target of terrorism in the past decade. But what is interesting are rumors of steps that may be taken by European Economic Community countries against the Islamic Republic of Iran in the wake of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's statements on Palestine. If true, these rumors unfortunately show that the EEC countries have not learnt a lesson from the Salman rushdie affair.

It should be noted that what Hashemi-Rafsanjani meant was not to carry out revolutionary executions against Americans or other Western nationals only because of their nationalities.

What he simply tried to drive home was the need to punish those who continue to support, politically as well as financially, the Zionists in spite of their hair-raising crimes against bare-handed civilian Palestinians.

Editorial Views Khomeyni's Reconstruction Plan
NC1505121489 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 11 May 89 p 2

[Editorial in "Opinion" column: "Imam Clears Road to National Reconstruction"]

[Text] The government has already received instructions for implementation from President Khamene'i on policies and priorities in the country's reconstruction plans. These policies have already the backing of leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeyni as well.

The issue of the post-war reconstruction had recently stirred up many local political circles to adopt different stands and enter various debates. However, a special body comprising the heads of the three executive, legislative and judiciary powers, the prime minister, and concerned ministers from various ministries was formed after Imam Khomeyni set forth guidelines to revise and study the nation's reconstruction policies and priorities.

The country's reconstruction plans consists of main subjects a) policies, and b) priorities.

The people's participation can be cited as the most significant and outstanding principle stressed in the policies. The government is to only play a guiding and planning role. Naturally at the implementation phase, private sector and people have to shoulder the larger part of the task.

Making a distinction between the two phases of implementation and planning and dividing them as has been the main points of debates between various political circles can in fact be regarded as a positive step in the process of non-centralizing the reconstruction plans.

Perhaps a whole decade of continuous crisis and problems in the country could justify the need for centralizing the economy as well as technological and industrial activities. Today, however, in the second decade of its revolution, when the country is paving a smooth way

towards political tranquility and economic growth, it would be most opportune and advisable if Iranian people take a more serious part in politico-economic matters.

Among the priorities, oil and energy have been underlined as the two top priorities. Therefore, bright prospects can be foreseen for prompt reconstruction and construction operations as well as putting the country's petrochemical complexes, oil refineries and power plants into operation in a successful way.

The only serious bottleneck among the priorities now seems to be providing the reconstruction plans with the foreign exchange requjired to get them off the ground. This serious problem should be taken into careful consideration by the concerned authorities.

Despite various debates on the possibility of employing foreign sources along this line, foreign borrowing and aid can be allowed only within the framework of special rules and regulations. Iran may make use of foreign sources to realize the reconstruction objectives within the framework of the nation's foreign policy principles. Political dependence in any form should be altogether dismissed.

Of course transfer of technology and technical know-how should be considered by Iran as a principal in such cooperation.

Constitution Reappraisal Committee Meets
NC1405110489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] The secretariat of the council for the reappraisal of the Constitution has announced that the comittee in charge of discussing leadership issues and the Expediency Discernment Council of the council for the reappraisal of the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran [as heard] discussed, during several recent meetings, the conditions of leadership and admissible criteria, Islamic texts and the Constitution concerning the leadership, the selection of people with leadership competence, and the duties of the peoples' experts.

The report states that the reappraisal committee on centralization in the management of the executive branch, discussed—during five sessions attended by ministers, Majlis deputies and experts—the form of the executive branches and their practical experiences in the constitutions of various world systems and exchanged views on centralization in the executive branch.

Islamic Resistance Movement Issues Statement
LD1505193889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] In a statement yesterday the Islamic Resistance Movement announced: The forces of this movement will continue their jihad in carrying out the edicts of the Imam Khomeyni along the path of struggle against the oppression and brutality the usurper Zionist regime is practicing against Palestinian and Lebanese Muslims.

The Islamic Resistance movement emphasized its unity in the struggle with the revolutionary Palestinian Muslims in the occupied territories. The Islamic Resistance Movement claimed responsibility for the attack on a patrol unit of the forces of the Zionist regime, in the occupied Rayhan Region, in southern Lebanon, and has declared: As a consequence of this attack, all the members of the crew were either injured or killed.

Antiregime Students, Clergy Detained in Tehran, Qom
TA1505071189 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] Our fellow strugglers have reported that the detention in Tehran and Qom of clergymen and theology students opposed to Khomeyni's velayat-e faqih regime is continuing. This report stresses that 500 to 600 antiregime clergymen are currently languishing in prisons. These people were detained and imprisoned because during sermons they criticized the regime's actions.

Nepal

King Reconstitutes Council's Standing Committee
BK1405115289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1143 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] Kathmandu, May 14 (AFP)—King Birendra has reconstituted Nepal's influential Standing Committee of the State Council and reappointed its chairman, state-run Radio Nepal said Sunday.

The king renamed Anirudra Prasad Singh, a former chief justice of the Supreme Court and ambassador to Egypt, as chairman of the 14-member advisory body which is similar to the British Privy Council.

Appointees included Grishma Bahadur Devkota, a veteran political worker and historian, Govinda Prasad Upadhyaya, a second-term politician, and Kesharjuhng Rayamajhi, a Politburo member of the banned, pro-Moscow Communist Party of Nepal.

Former Standing Committee member Purna Bahadur, regarded as pro-Beijing, was dropped from the reconstituted body.

Mr. Singh comes from the southeast Kumau region and is viewed here as having a pro-Indian posture. India and Nepal have been locked in a trade and transit dispute and New Delhi has accused Kathmandu of discriminating against people of Indian origin.

The Standing Committee advises the king on national affairs and under certain circumstances can nominate his successor. Its recommendations are said by analysts here to influence considerably the performance of the Council of Ministers.

Further on Trade, Transit Treaties With India

Foreign Minister on Negotiations

BK1405084889 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 2 May 89 p 1

[Excerpt] Kathmandu, May 1—Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya said here today that Nepal had taken all possible initiatives to begin early negotiations with India to end the current impasse resulting from unilateral abrogation by India of the trade and transit treaties.

Answering questions on the current state of Nepal-India relations at a crowded press meet this afternoon, Foreign Minister Upadhyaya emphatically said that Nepal believed that any problem, howsoever big it might be, should be solved through negotiations.

He said that any delay in beginning the negotiations was not due to the lack of initiatives by Nepal.

His Majesty's Government had proposed to India to begin early negotiations. Even Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha has requested India to propose the date, time, venue and level for such talks but there was no response from the Indian side, he added.

Asked about Nepal's stand on the trade and transit treaties, Mr Upadhyaya recalled that Nepal was for two separate treaties on trade and transit since 1960. But it was only in 1978 that two separate treaties were signed.

He clarified that the Nepalese stand was based on the fact that transit to a landlocked country was a right while trade was a matter of conveniences between the two countries.

Mr Upadhyaya said that transit rights to landlocked countries had been guaranteed by international laws and conventions since centuries.

Foreign Minister Upadhyaya said that although trade could also be carried out on the basis of MFN [most favored nation] without any treaty as GATT principles guided the same, there was the need to conclude a transit treaty since the goods had to pass through territory of another country.

Replying to a question on the 1950 treaty of peace and friendship, the Foreign Minister said that the treaty generally did not pose problems in the relations between the two countries. But, His Majesty's Government was ready to discuss with India if there were problems. Nepal's willingness to review the treaty was also communicated to India, Mr Upadhyaya added.

Foreign Minister Upadhyaya said that His Majesty's Government did not even think that the present scenario would ever come nor was there any basis for Nepal to think that such a situation would ever arise between the two countries which are the founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement and the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] working together at the United Nations for the promotion of peace, disarmament and for the rights and interest of the Third World countries.

In reply to another question, Mr Upadhyaya said that Nepal believed that the problem between Nepal and India could be solved through mutual discussions and added that Nepal was firm on ending the stalemate through mutual discussions.

Replying to another question, the Foreign Minister said that it is India's responsibility to arrange for its own security.

Similarly, it is Nepal's responsibility to decide what is to be done for its security. He added: "As we do not raise doubts about them, they should also not raise doubts about us. We want a fair deal." [passage omitted]

No Formal Response From India

BK1405085489 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 3 May 89 pp 1, 7

[Text] Kathmandu, May 2 (RSS) [RASHTRIYA SAMACHAR SAMITI]—His Majesty's Government [HMG] is not to blame for the strains in the harmonious and friendly relations between Nepal and India as they have resulted from the unilateral abrogation of Nepal-India trade and transit treaties by the Government of India.

The Ministry of Commerce made this remark when its attention was drawn towards the false publicity made by Indian media including All India Radio after the Nepal-India trade and transit treaties were terminated unilaterally by the government of India.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, Nepal had fully abided by the trade and transit treaties signed between the two countries.

No formal response has been received from the Indian government to the repeated requests of His Majesty's Government for initiating talks on new treaties.

The Ministry of Commerce has said that in spite of the formal request made by His Majesty's Government for suggesting the level, venue, date and time for initiating bilateral talks on this subject, the Indian side is not giving any formal reply but is just saying, "we are also ready."

It also recalled that drafts of new treaty of trade and the agreement of cooperation to control unauthorised trade were initialled by both sides at the secretary level meeting held in New Delhi in October last year.

The Indian government was sent a formal letter about the signing of the approved draft of the trade treaty at ministerial level, it is stated.

On February 27, 1989, before expiry of the transit treaty, a seven year extension was requested.

HMG had called for continuation of the 1978 treaties and the attached protocols, memoranda and exchange of letters pending a new trade treaty and further arrangements for transit, the ministry said adding that the Indian government had however unilaterally ended the trade and transit treaties all of a sudden on March 23 and notified that trade would be on MFN [most favored nation] basis and that there should be one treaty instead of two.

According to letters from the Indian commerce secretary dated March 14, 1988 and July 18, 1988, there was agreement on extending the trade treaty four months and three months respectively, the ministry said adding it is false to say that new taxes were levied on Indian goods entering Nepal in 1988.

It is categorically false that following expiry of the trade and transit treaties on March 23, 1989, needed supplies have continued to flow into Nepal from India on a regular, basis, the ministry said.

Following treaty expiry, urgently needed items like petroleum products, salt and medical supplies stopped coming in, while many supplies for which payment had been made before that date are still being held up by India at Raxual and Jogbani.

While many supplies have had to turn back from the Indian customs points, India has not allowed entry into Nepal since March 23 of petroleum products and coal for which prior payment had already been made although agreements with the Indian parties on import of these items were valid till March 31, the ministry stated.

It is India that is responsible for inability of Nepalese bussinessmen to export goods to India and this has brought great difficulty to Nepal, the ministry said adding that this has forced Nepal to look to other countries for markets.

According to the ministry, HMG had before this also not been providing cash subsidy for exports to India. Under the various trade treaties that were signed between the two countries, the import levy on Indian goods was far lower than on third country goods.

Nepal has always wanted the best of ties with India and this has always been Nepal's attitude, the ministry said adding that Nepal's stand is that trade and transit treaties should be separate.

If India wants only one treaty, Nepal is prepared for this, but the treaty will be on transit.

The ministry recalled that Nepal's Foreign Minister had met his Indian counterpart in New Delhi and gave him drafts of separate treaties on trade and transit.

Newsmen Arrested for Views

BK1305130589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] Reports from Kathmandu speak of a number of journalists and commentators having been arrested for expressing even mild disagreement with the Nepalese Government's attitude toward India in the controversy over trade and transit treaty. Journalist circles in the Nepalese capital say that more than half a dozen scribes have been arrested and some commentators victimized in their service. This action has been taken against them mainly because of their attempt to inform the Nepalese people about the Indian side of the story.

One commentator had also suggested greater democratization of the existing system in Nepal blaming the present regime for creating a crisis of confidence. Management of information in this manner has resulted in completely blacking out the Indian viewpoints from the Nepalese people, generating hostility toward India.

Pakistan

Foreign Minister Leaves for Nonaligned Meeting

BK1405092489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has left Islamabad for Zimbabwe to take part in the 3-day nonaligned foreign ministers' conference beginning in Harare on Wednesday. The foreign minister of Zimbabwe, who is the current chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, visited Islamabad on 5 May for talks with Pakistani leaders concerning the conference agenda.

Statement Supports Broad-Based Kabul Government

BK1505164189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] An official statement issued in Islamabad says that Pakistan is steadfastly supporting a peaceful political solution of the Afghanistan problem on the basis of the Geneva accords, the UN General Assembly resolutions on Afghanistan, and the decision of the UN secretary general to help set up a broad-based government in Kabul in place of the existing administration.

The statement adds that this political solution should be based on respect for the wishes of the Afghan people and restoration of their right of self-determination without outside interference.

The statement says that Kabul administration's (?false) propaganda, military threats, and provocative acts against Pakistan necessitates an early political solution of the Afghan problem which should be achieved through the peaceful transfer of power to a broad-based government in Kabul.

Further on Official Statement

BK1505164389 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 15 May 89

[Excerpts] An official statement issued in Islamabad today says Pakistan has consistently supported a peaceful political settlement of the situation relating to Afghanistan on the basis of the Geneva accords and in accordance with the UN General Assembly resolutions on Afghanistan, as well as the mandate given to the UN secretary general to encourage and facilitate the establishment of a broad-based government in place of the current regime in Kabul. [passage omitted]

The statement says the attention of the Pakistan Government has been drawn to a statement of the Soviet Foreign Ministry of the 6th of this month which supports the tendentious and baseless allegations, including threats, against Pakistan contained in Kabul regime's statement on the 2d of this month.

The Soviet statement that Pakistan intends to use its military personnel to attack Afghanistan cities is utterly unwarranted and unsupported by facts. There are no Pakistani military personnel inside Afghanistan and Pakistan has absolutely no intention of interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. It is most unfortunate that despite the fact that the Kabul regime has consistently failed to produce evidence in support of its campaign of disinformation and lies against Pakistan, the Soviet Union has issued a statement of support to that regime's latest statement.

The statement says irresponsibility of the Kabul regime is increasing as its ability to receive support of its people declines. It says the Government of Pakistan seeks no confrontation with the Kabul regime and has responded to its calculated provocations with considerable restraint. But it will certainly defend its territorial integrity and the lives and property of its citizens against any act of aggression by the increasingly isolated and desperate regime in Kabul.

Army Chief Justifies Concern Over Indian Missiles

BK1305163089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] The chief of the Army Staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, has said Pakistan's concern over the Indian missile Agni is quite genuine. However, Pakistan has been able to acquire its own capability to counter such threats with the development of its series of missiles. Addressing officers of the School of Infantry and (?Tactics) in Quetta today, he said the threat to Pakistan from the Agni missile, which has a range of over 2,500 km, is not as relevant as the threat from [India's] Kirti missile having a range of over 300 km. He said Pakistan has a limited territorial gap and Kirti missile can reach targets in Pakistan, while Agni may be aimed at targets much beyond it, which could well be in China, Soviet Union, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the (?Gulf).

About Afghanistan, General Aslam Beg was confident that the (?will) of the Afghan people will triumph. Now that the war of liberation is reaching its final and logical conclusion, it is the people of Afghanistan who have to settle the problems, he added.

Official Restates Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy

BK1505085889 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] A 3-day seminar on modern trend in nuclear medicine began in Islamabad today. The seminar has been organized by the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission in collaboration with the Federal German Nuclear Research Institute.

Inaugurating it, the chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Mr Munir Ahmed Khan, said Pakistan believes in peaceful uses of atomic energy. Pakistan's entire nuclear program is designed to bring the benefits of peaceful atom to the people in areas like power generation, public health, agriculture, and industry. He said at present nine nuclear medical centers in the country are extending treatment facilities to over 160,000 patients annually.

Professor [name indistinct] of Federal Germany speaking on the occasion said it is necessary to reduce the gap in high technology between developed and developing countries.

Minister Returns From Iran After Signing Oil Deal

BK1205160489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Iran will supply 20,000 barrels of crude oil daily at lower than international market price. This was stated by Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Recourses Jahangir Badar on his return to Karachi from Tehran this evening. The federal minister, who signed several agreements, said that Iran wants to develop and stabilize relations with Pakistan in all areas. He said that during his visit he also signed a memorandum of understanding to boost bilateral economic ties with Iran. The federal minister said that Iran wants to start joint ventures with Pakistan in crude oil refining and in trade.

Naval Chief Departs for Visits to Turkey, Italy

BK1305113689 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] The chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Yasturul Haq Malik, left Islamabad for Istanbul today on an 8-day official visit to Turkey. He is undertaking the visit at the invitation of his Turkish counterpart Admiral (Orhans Karabulek).

The chief of the Naval Staff will also be undertaking a 5-day official visit to Italy from the 22d of this month at the invitation of his Italian counterpart Admiral (Sergio Rogiulli).

Sri Lanka

Ministerial, LTTE Delegations Hold Peace Talks

BK1305112889 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] The ministerial delegation comprising Mr A.C.S. Hameed, minister of higher education, science and technology; Mr Ranil Wickremasinghe, minister of industries; Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, minister of foreign affairs; and Mr Sirisena Cooray, minister of housing and construction, met the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] delegation comprising Mr A.S. Balasingham, Mr Yogaratnam, and Mr Parama Moorthi yesterday and had two rounds of discussions.

The LTTE delegation further elaborated on the immense problems faced by the people of the north and the east, focusing primarily on human rights issues. They emphasized the urgency for restoring peace and normalcy in the north and the east and urged that a (?proper) condition be created to bring to light the plight of the Tamil speaking people.

The ministerial delegation said that the matter stressed by the LTTE would receive careful consideration.

The talks are continuing.

Premadasa Asks JVP Rebels To Join Peace Talks

BK1405090289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0841 GMT 14 May 89

[Excerpt] Colombo, May 14 (AFP)—Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa has asked Sinhalese rebels to engage in peace talks with the government to hasten the withdrawal of Indian troops from the island.

"There will be no difficulty in sending back the IPKF (Indian Peace Keeping Force)" if Sinhalese rebels agree to talks with the government as Tamil separatists have, Mr. Premadasa told a meeting of his ruling United National Party's National Executive Committee Saturday.

"The Indian troops have paid a heavy toll in blood and life and they too are keen to leave our shores. That is why I am appealing to all militant groups to return to the democratic process," the president said.

He said the Sinhalese group Janata Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP or People's Liberation Front), the Tamil guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the government all wanted the Indian troops withdrawn.

In a surprise move in late April, the LTTE decided to hold peace talks with the government, but the JVP has spurned all peace overtures. Preparatory talks between Colombo and the LTTE began April 26 and resumed earlier this month.

Mr. Premadasa said violence in the country had slowed the Indian pullout.

Domestic security forces were required in the south and could not be deployed in the Tamil-populated north and east to replace the 45,000 Indian troops stationed there, he said.

The president said he believed that lasting peace could be restored only through dialogue.

"We are calling upon the JVP to return to the political mainstream because we cannot do anything else," he said. [passage omitted]

LTTE Bomb Kills, Injures Departing Indian Troops

BK1305080289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0728 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] Colombo, May 13 (AFP)—Tamil separatist guerrillas exploded a powerful bomb in northeastern Sri Lanka, killing an Indian Army major and wounding four officers as they boarded a ship to return home, officials here said Saturday.

Activists of the most powerful separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), set off the time bomb near Trincomalee jetty to coincide with a withdrawal of Indian troops on Friday, the officials said.

The troops were among some five battalions, or 7,000 men and equipment, India has been removing from Sri Lanka since May 3 in response to a request from President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

The attack came as top LTTE leaders continued talks with four senior Sri Lankan ministers in a bid to end the island's ethnic conflict which has claimed over 6,000 lives since 1983.

Tiger rebels had previously said they will not carry out "offensive operations" against Indian troops while the talks were on.

A joint statement by the LTTE and the Sri Lankan Government late Friday said Tiger rebels stressed the need for restoring peace in the island's north and east where the minority Tamil community is concentrated.

"They (the LTTE) focused primarily on human rights issues. They emphasised the urgency of restoring peace and normalcy in the north and east and urged that appropriate conditions be created to bring to light the plight of the Tamil-speaking people," the statement said.

Tiger militants are currently waging a bloody bush war against some 45,000-strong Indian forces deployed in the north and east in line with a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord.

The LTTE repudiated the peace pact and refused to surrender arms prompting a major offensive by Indian troops to disarm the group in October 1987.

Since then, over 865 Indian soldiers and more than 2,000 suspected rebels have died in bitter fighting.

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